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IN TODAY'S JERUSALEM POST

- Abba Eban argues against interim agreements. Now is the time for clear-cut decisions, says the former foreign minister. Section A.
- Everybody is for peace with Jordan. Now all people have to do is get used to it. Allison Kaplan Sommer reports. Section B.
- Genuine nostalgia or commercial exploitation? The MTV generation meets the Age of Aquarius at Woodstock '94, which opens today. Time Out.
- Rich kids race cars on Israel's back roads, and the race is on to get them onto a legal track. Joel Gordin reports. Magazine.



Palestinian journalists protest in front of 'An-Nahar's offices yesterday. Story, Page 2. (Stein/Harari)

Palestinian Police arresting suspects in Jerusalem

BILL HUTMAN

PALESTINIAN police are making arrests in Jerusalem of alleged Palestinian criminals and bringing the suspects to Jericho for questioning and imprisonment. *The Jerusalem Post* has learned.

In one recent case, two cousins from the Old City involved in an attack by a Moslem gang on Christians were taken from their homes in the middle of the night by members of the Palestinian Police.

The two, Hatem Abu Assab, 20, and Hatem Abu Assab, 22, (same name) from the Sadiyeh section of the Moslem Quarter, are still being held

in jail in Jericho, Palestinian sources said. Family members declined to speak about the matter. But a Palestinian source close to the case said the family had not been allowed to meet with the prisoners.

"They came late at night for them. They tried to escape, but were caught after a short chase," the source said.

Palestinian sources said there were several other such cases of arrests being made by Palestinian police in Jerusalem. The Palestinian Police operations in the capital are being conducted with the "highest level of approval" from

the PLO, according to the sources.

They said the arrest of the Abu Assab cousins was done with approval of PLO officials at Orient House.

The officials, including Faisal Hussein's adviser Abed Abu Diyab, met with the Christian and Moslem families after the fight three weeks ago in an effort to cool tempers.

The sources said the intervention by PLO officials reflected the stepped-up effort to handle their own affairs in Jerusalem, instead of relying on the Israeli authorities.

The Old City case was considered particularly important to (Continued on Page 2)

Syria wants one-year Golan withdrawal

DAVID MAKOVSKY and ALON PINKAS

SYRIA is insisting that full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights take place over one year and President Hafez Assad opposed Secretary of State Warren Christopher's appeal to be more flexible on withdrawal during his visit to Damascus this week, two diplomatic sources say.

Israel has also not moved from its insistence that its unspecified, three-phase Golan withdrawal occur in less than a five-year period, the sources say.

Assad gave his agreement to a one-year withdrawal during Christopher's visit to the region last month. Prior to that, he wanted Israeli withdrawal during a shorter period of time.

However, senior Israeli officials say Assad wants to ensure that full Golan withdrawal happens before the next Israeli elections, since he fears that the Likud's Benjamin Netanyahu, if elected, might halt the withdrawal in mid-course.

Reuters yesterday cited an unnamed senior Lebanese official as saying Christopher would seek answers to specific peace ideas the secretary put forward during his visit to the region this week. A US official termed this report an overstatement.

According to a local television report last night, Christopher (Continued on Page 2)

Husseini to Hussein: Don't visit Jerusalem

ALON PINKAS and news agencies

FAISAL Hussein, in charge of Jerusalem affairs for the Palestinian Authority, said yesterday that he advised King Hussein and other Arab leaders "not to visit eastern Jerusalem as long as it is under Israeli occupation."

IDF sources said yesterday that King Hussein might arrive in Jerusalem next week.

Husseini, speaking after meeting with a group of Western diplomats at Orient House, added that Jerusalem was no different from the rest of the territories occupied by Israel in 1967. No matter what Israel thinks, he said, Jerusalem will always be Palestinian territory.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres reacted angrily to Hussein's remarks. "Who is Faisal Hussein to call on the nations of the world not to come to Jerusalem unless they are invited to come by [PLO Chairman Yasser] Arafat? Does he have any official standing? Does he represent anyone? His remarks have the same value as a manifesto published by someone in the *Kol Ha'ir* [Jerusalem] weekly," he said.

Peres was speaking at the Knesset to the UJA's Prime Minister's

Mission which had previously met in Jordan with Crown Prince Hassan. "I have nothing against Hussein. I just think he is not authorized to make such a statement, and to me his statement borders on the ridiculous," Peres said.

Meanwhile, senior military Hussein may visit Jerusalem as early as next week, possibly next Friday.

The sources would not confirm various rumors pertaining to a specific date for Hussein's visit, but said if the king is not dissuaded by Palestinian statements calling on him not to visit without prior coordination with the PLO, there is no reason why the visit should not take place next week.

The sources confirmed that there were signals from Amman to the effect that the king would like to visit late next week.

"[Prime Minister] Rabin extended an open invitation to the king on more than one occasion, and the king accepted. We know that he is interested in coming to Jerusalem next week, maybe Friday, but I really cannot confirm

that a concrete plan exists," a senior IDF officer said last night. Rabin said last night that he did not know of a planned visit by Hussein to Jerusalem.

Transport Minister Yisrael Kesssar said yesterday that Royal Jordanian Airlines planes will be allowed to cross Israeli airspace on their way to Europe, probably beginning next week.

Kesssar and Rabin yesterday chose former Air Force Commander Maj.-Gen. Amos Lapidot to head a committee to determine the air route the Jordanian planes will take over Israel. A decision is expected early next week.

The committee will also examine the Civil Aviation Authority's ability to handle the flights from Jordan, expected to number about 40 a day, 15 of them flights by non-

(Continued on Page 2)

Orient House meeting probed Shaath gets permission to pray at Aksa Mosque

BILL HUTMAN and news agencies

THE Foreign Ministry is checking whether yesterday's meeting in Jerusalem between PLO official Faisal Hussein and a delegation of foreign diplomats at Orient House violated the autonomy agreement.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said ministry legal adviser Yoel Singer is checking for a possible violation of the agreement. However, he said, if Hussein hosted the visit as a private citizen and not as a member of the Palestinian Authority, this would be allowed under existing law.

Yesterday's Orient House meeting involved diplomats based in eastern Jerusalem from Italy, Sweden, Spain, the United States, France, Greece, Turkey, and Britain.

In the afternoon, a session was held with Tel Aviv-based diplomats from Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Canada, Brazil, and Bulgaria.

"We believe the issue of Jerusalem has not been solved, and we will continue to receive visitors here," said Hussein, the PLO official responsible for Jerusalem affairs.

He spoke with reporters after two hour-long sessions with the diplomats at Orient House.

Husseini said activities at Orient House are distinct from those of the Palestinian Authority set up to govern the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

"We believe Orient House is part of the peace process," Hussein said. "We made it clear that we are not part of the Palestinian National Authority."

The meetings came a day after Police Minister Moshe Shahal said police had questioned Palestinian security guards at Orient House

who allegedly had interrogated suspected collaborators. He said charges would be brought soon against them for illegal policing activity.

Palestinians rejected the accusations.

"All the accusations are baseless and they are all part of an organized campaign against Orient House," Orient House spokesman Hatem Abdul Qader told AP.

"We get complaints from people about various disputes in Jerusalem and other parts of the West Bank and we try to solve such problems. We do not arrest people. We do not interrogate or punish people either," he said.

The Likud yesterday called on Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to close Orient House.

In another development, PLO chief negotiator Nabil Shaath has (Continued on Page 2)

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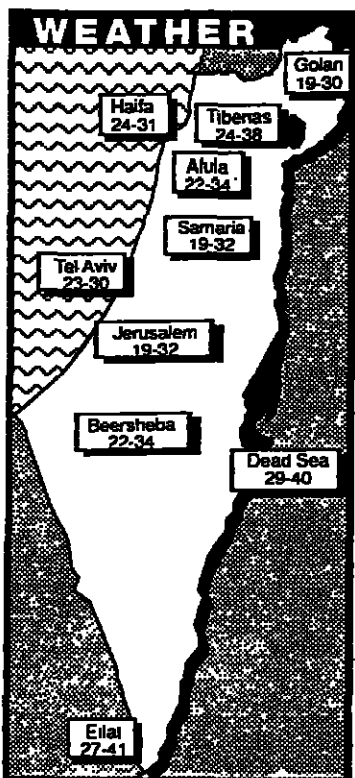
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Arafat distances himself from Kaddoumi

PLO chairman meets with head of Histadrut's international relations department

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

PLO LEADER Yasser Arafat yesterday distanced himself from Farouk Kaddoumi's statements to the effect that Israel has no right to exist, saying this does not represent the Palestinian Authority's position, and that he is committed to the letters he signed with Israel concerning mutual recognition.

Arafat spoke at a meeting with Jacques Neriah, head of the Histadrut's international relations department, held in Arafat's office in Gaza yesterday morning. During their talks they set a meeting - probably at the end of the month - between Arafat

and Histadrut Chairman Haim Ramon.

Arafat's adviser, Dr. Ahmed Tibi and his minister for presidential affairs Latief Abdel Rahim also attended the meeting, which was held in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. Neriah reported after the meeting that "Arafat was genuinely taken by surprise by Kaddoumi's statement and his reaction against it was strong, explicit and determined."

Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's foreign affairs department, denied he called for the destruction of Israel, his spokesman said yesterday.

Itim reported that Kaddoumi had called for Israel's destruction in a speech made at the closing of the PLO's radio operations in Algeria on Sunday.

"Kaddoumi did not say that he works for the destruction of Israel. This is a language which has no more place in the Palestinian dictionary and diplomacy," Ahmed Abdel Karim, head of Kaddoumi's information office, told Reuters.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres telephoned Arafat on Wednesday

night after the Rabin-Arafat summit to reiterate that Israel viewed the reported remarks gravely.

Peres told Israel Radio yesterday that Arafat called him back later to say he had issued a condemnation of Kaddoumi's remarks and that Nabil Shaath then called to read him the condemnation.

"The affair is closed," Peres said. Arafat and Neriah discussed possible ways for official cooperation between Palestinian trade unions and

the Histadrut. Neriah said that they reached an understanding that this kind of cooperation pertaining to all subjects the trade unions deal with - work conditions, professional training, education and welfare - will constitute a solid base for normalization between the two nations. He added that "this is a significant achievement. For the first time a channel of the utmost importance has been opened, enabling contact between the nations on everyday issues."

The Histadrut's previous attempts for cooperation with the Palestinian unions in the territories failed due to

the unions' refusal to maintain contacts until the Israeli authorities returned the millions of shekels they had deducted from Palestinian workers' salaries, and because cooperation with the Histadrut could have been construed as collaboration.

Neriah added that Arafat instructed Abdel Rahim to make immediate contact between the trade unions in the territories and the Histadrut. Neriah and Arafat decided that in the first stage they would set up committees to discuss the ways and means of cooperation, and present proposals and recommendations.

Hussein's nephew visits

JOSE ROSENFELD and news agencies

Grand rabbi of Morocco dies

YEDIDIA Monsenago, 88-year-old grand rabbi of Morocco, died yesterday at his home in the central city of Fez, the official news agency MAP reported.

Monsenago, who was also president of Moroccan rabbinic tribunals, came from a long line of Jewish religious leaders who arrived originally from Andalusia in Spain after their expulsion in the 15th century after the fall of Granada.

Winning numbers

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the nine of spades, eight of hearts, eight of diamonds and seven of clubs.

In last night's Payis Hazak drawing, the holder of ticket number 414427 won NIS 1,000,000.

The holder of ticket number 484785 won a Honda automobile.

Tickets numbered 868767, 096203, 278177, 243072, 296516, 556427, 336710, 730010, 333434, 881438, 545962, 786023, 564320, 497231, 441132, 023428, 094569, 896948, 310490, 606745, 497702, 496276, 005112, 134385, 495015 and 256892 won NIS 5,000.

Those tickets ending in 12519, 78135, 29259, 82579, 00451, 43113, 85736, 94100, 51984, 42150, 16912, 25952, 74335, 11985, 09634, 56371, 28860, 37441, and 41318 won NIS 1,000.

Tickets ending in 948, 268, 161, and 763 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 88, 08, 96 and 05 won NIS 20.

Tickets ending in 56, 83, 71, 79, 50, 91 and 33 won NIS 10.

Tickets ending in 5 won NIS 7.

THE nephew of Jordan's King Hussein visited here on Wednesday to discuss using Ashdod port for Jordanian imports and exports.

Prince Talal Hussein, who is Hussein's military secretary and involved in development projects, met with Ashdod Mayor Zvi Zilker and port officials.

Talal is the highest ranking Jordanian to visit Israel since Israel and Jordan signed the Washington Declaration.

Zilker said Prince Talal was keen on securing a separate 400-dunam section of the port just for Jordanian imports and exports.

"He spoke of moving 30,000 containers in 1995 and twice that the year after," Zilker said on Army Radio.

"We are talking of economic and commercial cooperation as clear as the sun," he said. "This would mean a savings of \$1,000 per container and this is a significant savings of \$30 million for the Jordanian kingdom for 1995."

Zilker said they were waiting for the approval of both governments before further steps are taken.

Talal's visit was not coordinated with customs authorities, Customs and Value Added Tax Director Aryeh Zeif said yesterday. However, Zeif said there is no problem in principle with the Jordanians using Israeli ports for their imports and exports.

According to Customs spokesman Idit Lev-Zarbei, if the Jordanians want to set up bonded warehouses near the ports, customs authorities will have to approve them.

Earlier this week Zeif approved the shipment via Haifa port of 10 containers from New York to the US embassy in Amman. Lev-Zarbei explained that this shipment was the first concrete proposal Israel has received.



Reuma Weizman (left), wife of President Ezer Weizman, meets yesterday in Daliat al-Carmel with bereaved Druse mothers whose sons were killed in military service. (Abu Salah Hussein)

Rally to protest closure of 'An-Nahar' fizzles

JON IMMANUEL

SEVEN Palestinian journalists waving placards which passersby ignored demonstrated for freedom of speech yesterday outside the offices of An-Nahar, the banned pro-Jordanian daily.

The newspaper closed two weeks ago after Palestinian Authority chairman Yasser Arafat banned its distribution.

Three of the journalists outside the office on Jerusalem's Rashid Street were from the weekly pro-communist A-Talib, which has suspended publication for a month for technical reasons. A fourth was identified with the Islamic movement.

Human rights activist Bassam Eid, who organized the protest, said 60 journalists had promised to turn up. He said they were deterred by the fact that Daoud Kuttab, a leading journalist retained at the competing Al-Quds newspaper, was suspended from his job after he signed a petition against the ban on An-Nahar.

There was irony in the placard which said, "No and a thousand times no to shutting mouths." Neither the only remaining Arabic daily, Al-Quds, nor the weekly English-language Jerusalem Times published by

senior Palestinian activist Hanna Siniora, has written a word about the ban on An-Nahar. Both deny that they received orders to ignore the issue.

Al-Quds editor Mahmoud Abu-Zoulu said he wrote nothing because he hates the paper.

"An-Nahar does not exist for me," he said. "It is not a newspaper. I can tell you very frankly nobody put pressure on us. It is a tempest in a teapot and everyone is trying to embarrass the Palestinian Authority." Siniora said.

Abu-Zoulu published an announcement accusing his own reporter "the so-called Daoud Kuttab" of being a publicity hound.

Eid, who works with B'iselem, the Israeli human rights organization, said he was shocked by the near total indifference among Palestinians to the issue of An-Nahar as a human rights and democratic rights issue.

An-Nahar owner-editor Othman Halk said yesterday he has not himself raised any protest "because it would not do any good."

Arafat has not responded to any of the letters of protest sent to him, by Western journalist associations, Eid said.

ORIENT HOUSE

(Continued from Page 1)

received government permission to enter Jerusalem to pray at the Al-Aksa Mosque on the Temple Mount.

Last night, a senior government source said Shaath would probably come to the city this afternoon, but could arrive tomorrow or Sunday.

Shaath will be the most senior PLO official to come to Jerusalem since the city was reconfirmed in 1967.

Shaath confirmed the go-ahead. "This ought to be a matter of fact, we ought to be able to see Jerusalem, to pray in Jerusalem," Shaath said in the Gaza Strip.

The final arrangements for the visit

are to be made during a meeting between Shaath and Shahal in Gaza this morning.

Shahal yesterday told reporters that "There is no reason any Moslem should be prevented from coming to a mosque and praying. We are for religious freedom for everyone."

Police were beefing up their forces in the city to secure the visit. But according to a senior police source, the visit is expected to pass quietly.

Peres and Shaath are to meet in Cairo next Wednesday as leaders of the liaison committee created under the PLO-Israel agreement.

HUSSEINI

(Continued from Page 1)

Jordanian airlines. An air force representative and Civil Aviation Authority head Menahem Sharon will serve on the committee.

The Jordanian authorities have said they only require a few days' notice to get ready to reroute their planes.

Jordanians yesterday celebrated the 42nd anniversary of King Hussein's accession to the throne by hailing his bold moves towards making peace with Israel.

Among foreign leaders who sent messages of congratulation to the 58-year-old monarch, the longest ruling Arab leader and the world's longest reigning monarch, was Rabin.

His cable indicated that this was not the first time he had sent a message acknowledging Hussein's accession.

"This year, my traditional message of greetings to you on the anniversary of your enthronement is uniquely significant," Rabin wrote.

"Over so many years, I always expressed my deep-felt conviction that the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, under your unique leadership, would be a central element in any peace we would hope to build."

SYRIA

(Continued from Page 1)

suggested during a meeting this week with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin that Israel completely withdraw from the Golan in two years. However, this was denied by US and Israeli officials.

"There is no basis to this report," Rabin aide Eitan Haber said last night.

Israel and Syria are still divided by large gaps in their respective positions on the peace process, Rabin said last night at the graduation ceremony of the 21st class of the IDF National Defense College in Gilot. At this stage of negotiations, he added, the two sides communicate through the mediating services and shuttle diplomacy of Christopher.

Rabin also told the graduates - senior officers from lieutenant-colonels to brigadier-generals - that in the coming years they should expect to see expanded cooperation between Israel and the moderate Moslem world.

"Israel must cooperate with moderate Arab countries in an effort to stem the fundamentalist tide. This is a murky and overwhelming wave threatening the region indiscriminately," said Rabin.

POLICE

(Continued from Page 1)

handle by PLO officials, who wanted to prevent a larger conflict erupting between Christian and Moslem families in the Old City, the sources said.

The PLO was successful, the sources said, and Christian community leaders even went to the Israel Police and asked to drop charges against the Moslem youths involved in the incident.

The Jerusalem police spokesman said the police knew of no instances when Palestinian security officials from Jericho had made arrests in the city.

However, he said the police had uncovered a number of incidents when the Palestinian Police summoned residents for questioning in Jericho.

Police sources said the operations of the Palestinian Police in Jerusalem had been referred to the Police Ministry, in the hope the government would raise the matter with the Palestinian Authority.

"There is only so much we can do," said one police officer close to the investigation. "This is a matter that must be addressed on the political level."

Jibril Rajoub, in charge of Palestinian security in Jericho, could not be reached for comment.

Meanwhile, a PLO-Israel peace accord watchdog group yesterday revealed the existence of an additional Palestinian national body operating in Jerusalem.

Peace Watch said this organization, "The Palestinian Energy Center," operates openly in conjunction with the Palestinian Authority in violation of the PLO-Israel accord, which says such organizations may operate only in the autonomous areas.

The center is located in the Dahiyat Al-Bard neighborhood of northern Jerusalem. It was founded in December, after the signing of the Declaration of Principles, by order of PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, according to Peace Watch.

The center is responsible for everything from making energy policy to setting the technical standards relating to energy for industries and businesses established in the autonomous areas, Peace Watch stated.

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Police looking for hit man who killed underworld figure

RAINE MARCUS

POLICE are searching for a hit man who shot 50-year-old underworld figure Amnon Bahashian to death shortly before midnight Wednesday, as he sat outside his steak house in downtown Tel Aviv.

Bahashian was the third victim in a series of underworld "contract" killings in the last two years, and police believe the same gunman or gang may be responsible.

The victim was in his restaurant at the Ibn Gvirol - Dizengoff intersection when a man wearing a black baseball cap and dark glasses approached him, called out his name, then fired three shots at his head from point blank range from a small caliber pistol.

The gunman fled on foot, but police say he was probably picked up by a getaway car waiting for him a few streets away. They later found the

clothes, cap, and sunglasses worn by the murderer in an abandoned car in Tel Aviv.

A passing soldier tried to stop Bahashian's bleeding, until a Magen David Adom intensive care ambulance arrived to take Bahashian to Ichilov Hospital. He died there from his wounds shortly afterward.

Bahashian's neighbors refused to be interviewed, saying they were afraid of being photographed. "This is the Mafia," said one. "The murderer is probably out of the country by now." Another man said, "He knew there was a contract out on him. It was just a matter of time."

Bahashian was wanted for conspiracy and attempted murder in the US. He had lived there for many

years, together with his American wife and two children, and was known by the FBI as an organized crime boss there. Police here believe Bahashian was involved in local drug trafficking and gambling rackets.

Five years ago he was arrested when he arrived here, together with the late mobster Yehoshua Aslan and Yosef Zacharia, who had agreed to turn state's evidence against the two. The latter had told police that Aslan and Bahashian intended to hire a killer here to murder another state witness, Joseph Graziani, in the US.

Graziani was supposed to testify in an American court against Bahashian and his nephew, Yitzhak Harush, for attempting to murder him. Harush is serving a prison sentence in the US

for attempted murder, but Bahashian escaped here.

Eventually Zacharia was not allowed to testify here, because the allegedly planned murder was to have taken place in the US. Bahashian and Aslan denied all allegations against them and were released.

Aslan was assassinated by a gunman on February 24, when he left a Tel Aviv restaurant with a female friend. Police have not yet found his murderer, although they believe they have clues to his identity. At first they were convinced the gunman had fled the country, but now theorize he may still be here.

Several months ago, snooker hall owner Meir Sultan was gunned down in circumstances similar to last night's murder. Sultan was a friend and business acquaintance of Bahashian and Aslan.



The body of a newborn baby found dead yesterday on the main road to Jerusalem's Shuafat neighborhood is taken away in an ambulance. Police believe the baby was murdered. (Brian Hender)

Baby's body found in Jerusalem

BILL HUTMAN

THE body of a newborn baby, apparently murdered, was found on the sidewalk on a main road in north Jerusalem yesterday.

The infant boy's body was sent to the National Forensics Institute at Abu Kabir and police were investigating the death. There were clear

signs of abuse on the body, police said.

A mother and son walking along Shuafat Road, just north of the French Hill junction, found the infant's body wrapped in a blanket.

Area residents immediately reported the incident to police.

Investigators noted that in the past they have encountered incidents of the killing of unwanted babies. It was too early in the investigation, however, to say what was behind the death of the infant found in Shuafat, police said.

Man killed trying to stop car thief

BILL HUTMAN

A JERUSALEM man was stabbed to death yesterday as he tried to retrieve a relative's stolen car just north of the city.

A senior police officer investigating the incident said it demonstrated that "citizens should not try to do the police's job."

Tahar Radwan, 29, an Israeli Arab, was pronounced dead on the scene, near Givat Ze'ev, by Magen David Adom medics.

Radwan and three other Silwan residents set out in search of the vehicle, at the request of his relative, after it was stolen in the morning in the Sanhedria neighborhood. The four looked in the area and then headed north out of

the city in the direction of El Jib and Givat Ze'ev. They spotted the vehicle along the highway between Givon and Givat Ze'ev.

According to the initial police investigation, the four forced the thief to halt the stolen vehicle and Radwan left his car to confront him.

An argument ensued between Radwan and the car thief, who drove away as Radwan reached through the car window to try to stop him. Several hundred meters down the road Radwan fell off the car, after having been stabbed several times by the driver. Magen David Adom medics pronounced him dead on the scene.

The stolen vehicle was eventually recovered by police in El Jib. The car thief remained at large.

Channel 2 broadcasts to go off air for a few minutes

LIAT COLLINS

CHANNEL 2 broadcasts will go off the air for a few minutes in several parts of the country tomorrow at about 11:30 a.m.

The break in broadcasts will be caused by a changeover to another satellite, according to a spokeswoman for the Second Television and Radio Authority.

The change to the new satellite (Intelsat 7) should solve problems of instability from the current satellite (Intelsat 5) and improve the quality of the reception of Channel 2 broadcasts, she said.

However, there is still no good news for those who live in areas without direct reception of the station.

Although the authority has invested \$4 million in a series of transmitters to be erected at different sites around the country, construction will not be completed until the end of 1995, station officials said.

Palestinians: We can't pay for treatment in Israeli hospitals

RAINE MARCUS

THE Palestinian Authority (PA) does not have the money to pay for treatment given to Gaza children in Israeli hospitals, Dr. Rahada Shaweh, manager of the Gaza Children's Hospital, said this week.

Under an agreement between the Palestinian Authority and Israeli hospitals, which is due to expire at the end of this month, Gaza children can be sent for treatment in Israeli hospitals as long as the PA pays the bill. "There is an increase in the number of children who need specialist treatment in Israeli hospitals," said Shaweh, who is also a member of the Palestinian Authority, at a press conference organized by Defense for Children International (DCI) yesterday.

In June, 154 children from the Gaza Strip suffering from cancer and

other serious diseases were referred to hospitals in Israel, while in July 248 such children were sent to Israel for treatment, said Shaweh.

No suitable treatment is available in Gaza hospitals. Prof. Michael Karplus, manager of the neonatal department at Beersheba's Soroka hospital, said children in Gaza are dying because of lack of funds.

"The main problem now is whether the Palestinian Authority will find the money to pay for services not yet available in Gaza," he said. "Autonomy" created a new situation whereby the responsibility no longer rests on us, but on Gaza health services. And they have no money to pay."

DCI Chairman Dr. Philip Veerman called on Israel to assist financially with children's treatment.

Turkey: Israeli tourists are very welcome

HAIM SHAPIRO

ISRAELI tourists are wanted and valued in Turkey and any cases of overbooking or similar problems are marginal in the context of the great mass of Israeli tourism there, according to Aynur Dogan, information counselor for the Turkish Embassy in Israel.

Dogan told a press conference in Tel Aviv yesterday she is very concerned about reports in some Israeli papers this week which gave the impression that overbooking is widespread.

She is even more concerned, she said, about headlines which give the impression that Israelis are unwanted

as visitors to Turkey.

Only recently, she pointed out, Turkey had canceled the requirement for Israelis to have an entry visa, even though Israel continues to require such a visa for Turkish citizens.

In comparison, the British and Italian need visas and Americans will need visas to Turkey from October.

Motti Brickman, deputy chairman of the Travel Agents Association, said that some 250,000 Israelis are expected to go to Turkey by the end of the year, out of some 1,250,000

Israelis touring abroad.

"Turkey is the leading destination this year," Brickman said. The cases of overbooking did not total more than 200, he said, noting there are incidents of overbooking all over the world.

He said one of the reasons for problems is that Israelis tend not to regard Turkey like other international destinations, often booking packages for the next day or even the same day.

Brickman suggested travelers make their reservations at least a

week or two in advance, and make sure they are given vouchers with the specific name of their desired hotel and the dates they are to stay.

He said that since Israelis tend to cluster at the same hotels, these often become booked up, and some would-be visitors have to be willing to accept alternative accommodation.

According to Turkish tourism statistics, there were about 6.5 million visitors to Turkey last year, of whom almost 175,000 were Israelis.

In the first six months of 1994, there were about 2.75 million tourists, with over 100,000 Israelis.

Free cat-neutering clinic opens

LIAT COLLINS

AFTER weeks of enduring stories of mutilation and abuse of animals in the city, Tel Aviv animal lovers at last have a reason to celebrate: the city is opening a new clinic to spay and neuter street cats free of charge.

"The clinic is intended only for street cats, not for pets," said City Veterinarian Zvi Galin. "If we get a complaint about too many cats in the yard at a certain address, instead of sending a team to poison them, as used to happen, we will pick the animals up, transport them to the clinic, neuter them, and return them. But this way the population won't grow."

The new clinic will be inaugurated Monday in the presence of Environment Minister Yossi Sarid and Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo.

Neutered cats will be marked by a nick on the left ear and details will be

entered into a computer so that the city can follow up on the campaign.

The clinic, established with a large donation from the Tuttmaner medical equipment company, does not use any extra veterinary personnel.

The city has run a subsidized neutering campaign since November at the clinics of private veterinarians, but this is the first time it will operate independently and free of charge. "We get more than 1,000 calls a year about cats. Often one old lady is feeding several cats in a yard and can't afford to pay even the subsidized fee," Galin said.

A side benefit of the campaign should be a reduction in the cases of cruelty to kittens, the most vulnerable animals, Galin said. The city veterinarians numbers are 03-604 4673, 03-604 2051.

Rabies cases increase 87%

LIAT COLLINS and Nim

REPORTED rabies cases have risen so far this year by 87 percent compared with the same period last year, according to Veterinary Services officials.

They said there have been 43 cases of rabies since January compared with 23 cases during the first seven months of 1993.

Altogether, 1994 has seen the highest number of rabies incidents since the 1950s when figures stood at 70 cases a year, most of them in the fall.

Veterinary Services data shows cases of rabies among 26 foxes, seven cows, four dogs, two jackals, two cats, one wolf and a marten.

Chief Veterinarian Prof. Amon Shishoni said most of the cases were discovered among wild animals over which the Veterinary Services has less control, whereas there has been a drop in the disease among domestic animals because of vaccinations and greater supervision.

Rabies outbreaks have been concentrated in the South (including Jerusalem) and in the Nahal Irtan-Menashe Mountains area.

Bezek asks court to declare workers in contempt

JUDY SIEGEL

BEZEK yesterday asked the Tel Aviv Regional Labor Court to declare that Bezek staffers in the Tel Aviv and Sharon regions have acted "in contempt of court."

The workers are continuing their sanctions against management despite the restraining orders issued by the court on Tuesday.

The workers are not answering 199 (Bezek service information) and 166 (repair service) calls in the area. They say they are protesting against management's decision to reduce management's power by 1,250 jobs by the end of this year, preferably through early retirement rather than dismissals.

Bezek director-general Yitzhak Kaul said yesterday that workers conducting sanctions would have their wages docked.

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The Family

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We all share your deep sorrow on the passing of
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On the thirtieth day after the passing of
SALLY (Sarah) HOROWITZ

there will be a memorial service at
WIZO House, Sd. David Hamelech, Tel Aviv,
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Details from Ruthie Reshef, 06-515090.

Reshef, Getzler and Leibner Families

We mourn the untimely passing of our beloved son

BRIAN ז"ל

and thank all our friends and family for their support,
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Anita and Natie Liberman

The unveiling of the tombstone of the late

MARCIA MENDELOWITZ ז"ל

will take place at Ra'anana Cemetery on Monday,
August 15, at 5 p.m.

The va'ad and members of Beit Knesset
Beit Yisrael of Yemin Moshe
offer their sincere and heartfelt condolences to

Larry Roth and his family
on the passing of his father,

JOSEPH ROTH
of Syracuse, New York.



The Israel Broadcasting Authority
The Division of the Authority, the Management
and Staff mourn the death of

ELIAHU LANKIN ז"ל

A founder of the Broadcasting Authority and
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Our sympathies to the family

To Doris Lankin and Family

Our deepest sympathy on your bereavement.

Emmanuel and Michal Shlom

To Doris, Eleanor and all the Lankin Family
We are deeply grieved by the passing
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ELIAHU LANKIN ז"ל

and offer sympathies to the family.

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and all the family



The Israel Museum, Jerusalem

deeply mourns the passing of its beloved friend

IDA CHAGALL

Her memory will be warmly cherished.

Our heartfelt condolences to her daughters, Bella and Meret

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Chairman of the Board



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Teddy Kollek
Chairman of the Board

Rehovot man kills wife, then commits suicide

RAINE MARCUS

A 26-YEAR-OLD jealous husband shot his wife dead and then committed suicide in their Rehovot home yesterday morning following a year of violent arguments.

The couple, Eli and Meirav Iden, were married only a year, but had not stopped fighting since their wedding day.

Meirav, 25, had recently asked her husband for a divorce, said police. He refused and had since tormented her with fits of violent jealousy, said a family member.

"She would even go off for a few days at a time, hoping he would calm down," she said. "But it didn't work."

Meirav had phoned her brother-in-law, David, at around 9 a.m. yesterday, asking for help and saying she feared that Eli was going to kill her. David arrived at the couple's villa and knocked on the door.

"We're coming in a minute," shouted Eli through the locked door. Then David heard two shots, and immediately called police and Magen David Adom, who broke into the house. The couple were found dead on the kitchen floor, lying side by side.

Eli had first shot Meirav once in the head before killing himself with

his licensed pistol. He had recently been discharged from the IDF where he was a career officer.

Family members had feared for some time that Eli would "do something terrible to Meirav," and had searched the couple's home for his pistol, said police. "Sadly, we didn't find it," said David on Army Radio yesterday.

Neither Meirav nor her family had filed a complaint with police about her husband's behavior, said David. "She didn't deserve this. She was such a sweet girl," he said. "I am calling on any battered woman, even if she was only hit once by her husband, to walk out of her home. That's how it starts."

At the scene of the crime, in the affluent suburb of Havatzelet, family members, friends and neighbors refused to talk to the press and pushed photographers and reporters who tried to enter the home.

Police still do not keep statistics on women murdered by their husbands, even though the spokesman has said twice over the past two years that police intend to start filing records relating to killings within families. Other statistics kept by women's organizations are based on newspaper clippings only and are not exact.



A relative is restrained outside the Rehovot house where Eli Iden murdered his wife, Meirav, and then turned the gun on himself yesterday. (Ailon Ron/Israel Sun)

Iran: Israel, US pressuring Argentina in blast investigation

NICOSIA (AP) — An Iranian government official accused Argentina yesterday of yielding to pressure from Israel and the US to pin the blame on Tehran for the deadly car-bombing of the Jewish community center in Buenos Aires.

The Islamic Republic News Agency quoted Dr. Javad Qanbari, the foreign ministry's expert on Latin America, as saying Iran "considers the United States and Israel as major elements behind the recent baseless accusations."

Argentine Federal Judge Juan Jose Galeano on Tuesday ordered four Iranian diplomats detained for questioning and named three other Iranian Embassy employees as suspects in the July 18 bomb attack that killed 95 people and injured more than 200 others.

However, Argentina said yesterday it would not expel Iran's envoy "for the time being," despite President Carlos Menem's earlier threat after charges linking the four to the bombing.

Vice Foreign Minister Fernando Petrella told local radio stations an expulsion of ambassador Haidi Soleimani was not in the cards "for the time being" as Buenos Aires still hoped Iran would cooperate in the probe of the blast.

After a local judge issued international arrest warrants for the four, Menem said Wednesday he thought the least Argentina could do was to throw out Tehran's ambassador. Tehran radio reported yesterday

that Iran has officially called on Argentina to "speedily" submit any evidence or proof it has in regard to its allegations against the Iranians.

Qanbari said Israel was working hand-in-hand with the US Central Intelligence Agency in a smear campaign against Iran.

"The Israelis have misused the weakness of the Argentine government and without having any documented evidence in their possession repeatedly attributed the Buenos Aires bombing to Iran," IRNA quoted the expert as saying.

"The role of Israel and the United States in distorting the trend of the investigation about the bombing is being unveiled, (and) world public opinion will not believe the accusations against Iran," he added.

Arab council heads shut services

DAVID RUDGE

MUNICIPAL services in Arab towns and villages throughout the country were shut down yesterday as part of the stepped-up campaign by council leaders to press the government to bail out their debt-ridden local authorities.

Council employees, many of whom have not received their full salaries for several months, staged demonstrations, alongside main roads outside their communities. The demonstrators carried placards in Arabic and Hebrew calling for equality for Arab citizens and especially parity in the size of municipal budgets between Arab and Jewish councils.

In Kafr Manda, between Shfaram and Nazareth, council workers lined the road outside the village, even though the protesters and their placards could only be seen by a few passing cars.

Local council head Abdel Halim Tahr said the municipality had taken steps to ensure that workers' salaries were paid first, but this was at the expense of other services.

"In our small council we have a deficit of around NIS 8 million which is almost the equivalent of a year's budget. This means we have had to cut back on all services, and we don't even talk about urgently needed development projects," said Tahr.

He maintained that although the government had increased budgets, the 53 Arab councils had received a total of NIS 15 million while the accumulated debts of all the councils was over NIS 200 million.

"It's obvious that in such circumstances we simply cannot give our residents the kind of services they deserve," he added.

The one-day strike of municipal workers yesterday was the latest step in a campaign of Arab council heads, who have been on strike for three weeks and whose protest tent opposite the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem has become an almost permanent fixture.

Hussein Suleiman, spokesman for the forum of Arab Council Heads, said they intended to send a delegation to UN offices in Geneva next week to outline their plight.

The council heads also intend to keep all children in the Arab sector at home on September 1 when the schools reopen, and call a general strike of the entire Arab community if necessary.

Suleiman, who is also head of Mash'had local council, near Nazareth, said that talks with the Treasury and the Interior Ministry had so far ended in deadlock. The council heads have threatened to further intensify their protest measures unless their demands are met.

Three remanded in Givatayim bombing

RAINE MARCUS

THREE men allegedly involved in a bombing attempt in Givatayim Sunday night were remanded yesterday by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court.

Of Ben-Baruch, 18, was injured when the pipe bomb he was carrying exploded in his hand on a busy street. He fled the scene, but turned himself in to police three days later. He was remanded for seven days.

Police initially thought the bombing attempt was carried out by a terrorist, and large numbers of police and sappers swept the area. However, it soon became apparent the motive was criminal.

Uri Levy, 54, and his son, Ben, 22, also turned themselves in and were remanded for five days. Police believe they were involved in a conspiracy to bomb a greengrocer's store in Givatayim, and assisted Ben-Baruch in his getaway.

'Communications' being held with Cuba on resuming diplomatic ties

SUE FISHKOFF

NEW YORK

THE Jerusalem Post has learned that while Cuba and Israel are not conducting formal negotiations regarding the possibility of resuming diplomatic relations, there are "some communications" going on between the parties.

Sources told the Post that Cuba is ready to reopen relations immediately, but Israel is stalling so as not to anger Washington. Given current US policy on Cuba, one source said, "we're putting everything on hold." Castro cut off diplomatic relations with Israel following the Yom Kippur War.

As of Monday, Cuba's Jewish community knew nothing of Fidel Castro's reported statement to Yitzhak Navon that the Jews of Cuba were free to emigrate, ac-

cording to Rabbi Jorge Sztainhendler of Guadalajara, Mexico.

Sztainhendler, who returned from Havana Monday night, said yesterday that he was "surprised" to hear of Castro's reported offer. He described the situation in Havana as "very difficult," with continued street violence and vandalism following last Thursday's violent demonstration by anti-Castro forces. There is a heavy security presence in the city, he said, and the situation continues to worsen.

Sztainhendler travels several times a year to Cuba where he acts as the community's rabbi and religious educator on behalf of the Joint Distribution Committee, which has operated in Cuba since 1991.

Dig near Acre reveals remains from Roman era

DAVID RUDGE

ARCHEOLOGISTS have uncovered the remains of a bath house dating back to the Roman period in rescue excavations on the outskirts of Acre.

The Antiquities Authority said it was the first time that evidence of a Roman presence in the ancient city had been uncovered.

"The remains represent another piece in the jigsaw of ancient settlement at Acre," said Zvi Greenhut, head of the authority's education and information department.

Previous excavations at Tel Acre, a mound near the town's football stadium east of the existing city, have revealed evidence of settlement dating from the middle Bronze Age, around 2,000 BCE, to the Iron Age or Persian period around 500 BCE.

Around this period, with the sea apparently receding, settlement moved nearer to the coast and the site of the existing city. Excavations in and around the city have uncovered evidence of ongoing settlement from the Hellenistic period, around the second and third centuries BCE, through to the Crusader period and the massive fortress in the center of Acre's

old quarter. "In the rescue excavations, we have now found evidence of a Roman presence in Acre, which is important in piecing together the history of the city," said Greenhut.

He noted that the rescue dig was being conducted at a site on the outskirts of Acre which is destined to be covered by a proposed new access road to the old quarter of the city.

Greenhut said the excavations had uncovered "hypocaust" pillars of the kind used for heating the sauna area of Roman period baths, as well as the remains of a bathing pool.

Meanwhile, the Antiquities Authority is continuing excavations in Acre's old quarter which are uncovering more of the Crusader fortress and other major construction works from the period.

These excavations are being conducted in conjunction with the municipality's Acre Development Corporation and the Tourism and Labor ministries. The municipality hopes at a later stage to turn the uncovered remains into a major tourist attraction.

Remand extended for suspects in 'Bonnie and Clyde' robbery

THE remand of a couple suspected of robbing a Bank Hapoalim branch in Jerusalem on Tuesday was extended yesterday by 15 days by Jerusalem Magistrate's Court.

Imi Mizrahi, 34, and Nurit Alkotzer, 23, of Jerusalem have confessed to the holdup, police said.

Police also suspect Mizrahi robbed a Bank Mizrahi branch in the capital on Monday, which he denies. Police won't allow his photo to be published so he can appear in a line-up.

A police representative told the court the NIS 21,000 take from the Bank Hapoalim robbery was found in the suspects' car. They said Alkotzer stole a neighbor's bag containing keys several days ago, then stole the car Tuesday for use in the robbery.

They then bought two toy guns and stocking masks before carrying out the robbery. The two were caught after a high-speed chase by police when Mizrahi lost control of their car and it overturned. (Jim)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Histadrut joins rescue campaign in Rwanda

The Histadrut has launched a fund-raising campaign to save lives in Rwanda. The Histadrut parliament appointed a team consisting of acting trade union department head Efraim Zilony, Na'amat chairwoman Ofra Feldman, and members Yoram Obrakovitz and Mahmoud Mafra to handle the campaign among workers, unions, labor councils, Na'amat branches, youth movements, and other groups. Contributions may be made at the Bank Hapoalim branch at Rehov Arlosoroff 750, Tel Aviv, account No. 133333.

Ida Chagall dies at 79

Ida Chagall, only daughter of the late painter Marc Chagall, died in Paris Wednesday after a long battle with cancer. She was 79. She was the daughter of Chagall's first wife, Bella. Mother and daughter appeared in many of the artist's early and most famous paintings. Ida first came here with her father in 1932, when Chagall made his famous painting of a Seder synagogue, now displayed at the Israel Museum. She subsequently visited Israel several times, and a few years ago turned over six suitcases full of works by Chagall to Teddy Kollek, as a gift to the Israel Museum. Meir Ronnen

Kach detainee asks to sign no-terror pledge

Justice Dalia Dornier decided yesterday to expand to three judges the panel which is to rule on Kach detainee Noam Federman's petition to the High Court of Justice against OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Ilan Biran and Prisons Service head Arye Bibi. Federman is demanding that the court order Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin to release him from administrative detention. In his petition, Federman asks that he and the other Kach detainees be released if they sign a commitment not to engage in any form of terrorism, the same condition for release offered to Palestinian prisoners. He said he would sign such a commitment despite the fact that he had never committed a terrorist act. Itim

The va'ad and members of
Beit Knesset Beit Yisrael of Yemin Moshe
offer their sincere and heartfelt condolences
to Sylvia Zeifman and her family
on the passing of her mother,

CHANA NUSSBAUM
of Toronto, Canada

ברוך דיין האמת

In deep sorrow we announce the death of my wife, our
mother, our grandmother our dear sister

ESTHER MAYER

(née Lasman)

The funeral took place yesterday, Thursday 4 Elul 5754
(11.8.94).

Mourning by:

Husband: Herman Joseph Mayer.
Son and daughter-in-law: Gideon and Amira Meir,
Embassy of Israel in London

Son and daughter-in-law: Ephraim and Yehudit Mayer,
Beit-El

Sisters: Leah, Ruth and Yehudit and
their families

Grandchildren: Adi, Irit, Noa, Elad, Ariel, Sarah,
Tefila, Eitan, Ranenna, and Hodaya

Shiva at Beit Bart, Derech Hebron 56, Jerusalem.

Martin Weyl
Director

US sets October deadline for lifting Bosnian embargo

SARAJEVO (Reuters) — US President Bill Clinton said yesterday he intends to ask the United Nations to lift the Bosnian arms embargo by the end of October unless the Bosnian Serbs accept an international peace plan.

In Sarajevo, UN efforts to feed the city blocked by Bosnian Serbs suffered another blow when gunfire hit cargo aircraft, forcing the suspension of the relief airlift that had restarted only two days previously.

Outside the city, Bosnian Serb and Muslim-led Bosnian army troops were reported pouring troops into a battle zone where the UN has already threatened both sides with air strikes in an attempt to stop the fighting.

Clinton's remarks on lifting the embargo came in a letter to the Congress in response to congressional pressure to give more aggressive support to the Bosnian government, which has accepted the five-nation "contact group" plan for peace that the Bosnian Serbs have rejected.

The embargo hinders the lightly-armed but numerous Bosnian army forces more than the well-armed Serbs and its removal has long been supported by US politicians.

European countries with troops on UN duty in Bosnia have resisted the move, fearing an upsurge in fighting, and have threatened to withdraw their forces.

The Europeans and Russia had hoped that the threat of tougher sanctions against Serbian-led Yugoslavia and the consequent apparent blockade of the Bosnian

Serbs by Belgrade would be enough to force an acceptance of the peace plan before the threatened end of the arms embargo became unavoidable.

The Sarajevo airlift was suspended after a French C-130 cargo plane and a United Nations Il-76 were hit by small arms fire while on the airport tarmac.

No casualties were suffered and the planes were able to leave. The United Nations could not say who fired the shots.

The airlift had resumed after a long break following shooting incidents, some of which the United Nations pinpointed as coming from Bosnian Serb positions.

"This is very alarming for UNHCR because the food supply here is absolutely abysmal as a result of having no flights for 18 days until we resumed on Tuesday," said Peter Kessler, spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Bosnian Serb forces closed overland supply routes to Sarajevo two weeks ago in an angry response to Western pressure to accept the peace plan.

United Nations military spokesman Major Rob Annick said shelling in the UN-declared heavy weapons exclusion zone had died down since Tuesday's threat by UN commander General Michael Rose to call in NATO air strikes.

"There were sporadic firefights and occasional mortar and artillery fire reported," Annick said. "We are very pleased that military activity in this area has decreased remarkably."

'Throw soldiers out,' Zaireans protest

GOMA, Zaire (AP) — Thousands of Zaireans demonstrated and set up roadblocks in the center of Goma, saying they were fed up with thieving soldiers sent to help in the Rwandan refugee crisis.

At least six tractor-trailers bringing relief supplies to nearby refugee camps were stranded at the border because they were unable to navigate through the makeshift barricades.

Some refugees joined in as about 5,000 townspeople filled the streets, throwing rocks and taunting police after a Zairian soldier shot and killed a local man who had been changing money on the black market.

"Throw the soldiers out," protesters chanted as others carried a wooden stretcher bearing the body of the man shot Wednesday night.

Demonstrators said they were tired of robberies and extortion committed by Zairian soldiers called to Goma last month to keep order after nearly 1 million Rwandan refugees surged over the border into their community.

Soldiers fired in the air at least twice yesterday to send the protesters scattering, but the crowds regathered each time. Demonstrators threw signposts, debris and half-meter chunks of volcanic rock onto a 1.6-kilometer-long stretch of the main road through town.

Goma has become increasingly tense since the refugees arrived in mid-July. Most have been moved to a half-dozen camps in areas kilometers away from Goma. But thousands of refugees still live in traffic circles, doorways and almost any other available space in the town of 80,000 people.

Soldiers have been stealing goods and extorting money from aid organizations, refugees and



Zaireans carry the body of a man through the streets of Goma yesterday.

(AP)

anyone else they encounter in the town and at the airport. They have been seen helping themselves to relief supplies unloaded from the 30 to 40 aid planes landing each day.

Money also has become a sensitive issue as prices for everything have soared and the value of the Zairian currency has plummeted in the city now flooded with dol-

lars brought in by aid workers, journalists and other foreigners.

In an almost entirely dollar-driven economy, it now costs 2,000 of the local notes, called the Zaire, to buy a US dollar, almost twice what it cost last week. Refugees and others who need Zairian money trade with the black market money changers.

In the largest of the refugee

camps, meanwhile, the United Nations yesterday suspended food distribution because another man was beaten to death in a melee that erupted while food was being handed out the day before.

The man was killed at the Kibumba camp, a sprawling settlement of 400,000 people, where two men also had been beaten to death Tuesday in a fight while ra-

tions of corn, soy meal and maize, a rough type of corn, were being handed out.

Food supplies are short and aid workers have been trying to ease increasingly violent competition for the rations. But Ray Wilkinson, spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said the motives for the killings were suspect.

Western experts may check North Korean nuclear rods

GENEVA (Reuters) — The United States and its Western allies may send a team of experts to North Korea to examine around 8,000 spent nuclear fuel rods that could soon pose a radiation threat, diplomats said yesterday.

They said sending the team was part of an interim agreement being negotiated in US-North Korean talks in Geneva to allow fears over the fate of the uranium rods.

But the diplomats said wider negotiations on plans for North Ko-

rea to switch to a safer type of nuclear power technology were proceeding slowly and nothing more than a "modest" agreement was expected.

The heads of the two delegations, US Assistant Secretary of State Robert Gallucci and Pyongyang's Deputy Foreign Minister Kang Sok-ju, last met on Wednesday for a long working lunch.

The negotiations split up into expert "working groups" on Wednesday evening and contin-

ued yesterday.

The experts broke off for several hours yesterday afternoon but US officials said the North Koreans were expected to return to the US diplomatic mission later.

There was no word yet on today's schedule.

The officials took the unusual step of formally denying a Japanese press report quoting Gallucci as saying an accord delaying the reprocessing of the fuel rods was close.

Teen faces federal charges in NY slaying

SUE FISHKOFF
NEW YORK

A BLACK Brooklyn teenager, tried and acquitted in the 1991 murder of Australian hasidic student Yankel Rosenbaum, has been arrested and will face arraignment here this morning on federal charges of violating Rosenbaum's civil rights, according to his lawyer.

A federal indictment was handed up by a Brooklyn grand jury against Lemrick Nelson, 18.

NY Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said earlier yesterday that he could not comment on the case as the indictment was sealed.

In October 1992, Nelson was acquitted by a Brooklyn jury in the slaying of Rosenbaum, who was stabbed after being surrounded by a mob of black teens on a street in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, on August 19, 1991. Police believe Rosenbaum was killed in retaliation for

the death three hours earlier of a young black child who was struck by a car driven by a member of the Lubavitch community.

The death of Gavin Cato, 7, sparked four days of anti-Jewish rioting in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn.

The only way Nelson is able to stand trial again for the Rosenbaum slaying is to be charged with a civil rights violation, which is what the Brooklyn DA's office and local Jewish leaders urged Reno to do for almost two years. Reno convened a federal grand jury to investigate the case in January.

Rosenbaum's brother, Norman, an attorney

in Australia, said yesterday the indictment against Nelson "has been far too long a time in coming."

He said the Rosenbaum family sees the indictment as only "the beginning of the story," as there are "still 29 people out there on the streets who were part of the mob" that stabbed his brother.

Law enforcement sources told The Jerusalem Post that the federal indictment probably only names Nelson. A second suspect who emerged last fall, Ernesto Edwards, is probably not named, the source said, but in that case Brooklyn DA Charles Hynes will probably convene a grand jury again to charge Edwards with murder.

WINS radio in New York reported "speculation" that other arrests in the case will follow.

'Fewer N. Ireland troops if IRA calls truce'

BELFAST (Reuters) — Northern Ireland's police chief said yesterday that some of the 18,000 troops in the province could be pulled off the streets if the IRA declared a much-heralded cease-fire in its 25-year war against British rule.

Sir Hugh Annesley, head of the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC), made his remarks days before the 25th anniversary of the deployment of British troops, which heralded the start of a quarter-century of political and sectarian conflict.

"If the threat was to tail down, then the level of overt army patrolling on the streets could be

tailed down," he told the BBC. He immediately came under attack from leading Protestant politicians who accused him of bargaining with the IRA and of undermining British and Irish government pledges not to negotiate with terrorism until it is over for good.

Ken Maginnis of the mainstream Protestant grouping the Ulster Unionist Party said Annesley's remarks were tantamount to negotiation with the IRA and called on him to resign as head of the 12,000-strong armed police force.

"He has given the IRA its biggest boost of the last 12 months by

offering to 'tail down' the level of army support in response to a lessening of IRA attacks on the RUC and the courageous men and women of that service will feel humiliated."

Annesley's remarks coincided with renewed speculation that the Irish Republican Army (IRA) might shortly announce a long cease-fire in its war to reunite the province with Ireland.

Republican sources said the IRA was actively discussing an extended truce to bring concessions from Britain on an Anglo-Irish peace plan for the province which its political wing, Sinn Fein, says is not radical enough.

Uproar in Germany over Holocaust denial case

BONN (AP) — A prosecutor said yesterday that he is examining whether a court broke the law by praising the character of a right-wing extremist who denies the Holocaust occurred.

A Mannheim court's leniency with Guenther Deckert, a former high school teacher and leader of a 5,000-member antisemitic organization, has mushroomed into a national scandal.

The three-judge state court in Baden-Wuerttemberg state in June gave Deckert a one-year suspended sentence for denying the Holocaust and the existence of Nazi gas chambers at the Auschwitz death camp. In a commentary

on the ruling made public just this week, the judges said Deckert had broken the law but gave him credit for sticking to his principles.

Other judges, Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Jewish leaders, people persecuted by the Nazis, the Israeli ambassador and church officials have denounced the court's commentary, saying it places neo-Nazis on a pedestal.

Confusion arose yesterday about which of the Mannheim court's judges wrote the commentary, which said Deckert was not an antisemite and called him a "strong-charactered, responsible personality" with clear convictions.

The court commentary also implied that Germany faced endless demands for compensation for Nazi crimes against Jews while mass murderers in other countries go unpunished.

German media had been saying the author of the commentary was presiding judge Wolfgang Mueller. But the *Frankfurter Rundschau* newspaper said yesterday that it was penned by an assistant judge, Rainer Ortel.

Court officials wouldn't comment on who was responsible.

Hans-Heiko Klein, who prosecuted Deckert, said he will examine whether a judge broke the law. "He cannot simply write what-

ever he thinks," the Mannheim prosecutor said on Saarländischer Rundfunk radio. "For example, if a judge writes 'the accused is a big idiot' he could be prosecuted for slander."

But Klein attacked the charges might be slim of prosecuting the Mannheim judges.

The top state court official in Mannheim, Gunter Weber, said he might transfer all three judges to a chamber that handles civil rather than criminal cases.

Leaving them where they are will undoubtedly prompt many future defendants to demand they be tried elsewhere, Weber said.

Simpson removed from jail for minor surgery on lymph nodes

News agencies

LOS ANGELES — Football legend O.J. Simpson was hospitalized briefly yesterday for a minor surgical procedure involving a lymph node, then returned to his jail cell.

"The procedure was performed without any complications. The patient fared very well," said Dr. Robert Huizenga, Simpson's personal physician.

Simpson's lawyer, Robert Shapiro, said the surgery involved a lymph node. The attorney revealed on June 17, the day of Simpson's arrest, that his client had an enlarged lymph node in an armpit.

Swollen lymph nodes in the armpit, neck or groin can indicate the presence of viral or bacterial infection, or more serious diseases such as AIDS, cancer or Hodgkin's disease.

Simpson was in the constant company of six deputies during his three hours away from jail. He returned to his cell at 7 a.m. local time, said Deputy Gabe Ramirez. It's not unusual for a prisoner to be treated for ailments at local hospitals. Martin said, although most inmates are treated at nearby Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center's jail ward.

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, known as the "hospital to the stars" because of its reputation for being the celebrity medical center of choice, is 16 kilometers from the jail.

Inmates are permitted to see a private physician, but only if the

prisoner pays for transportation and security costs, said Deputy George Ducoulombier.

Simpson is due back in court next Wednesday when Superior Court Judge Lance Ito will hear from defense and prosecution lawyers on their progress in voluntarily exchanging evidence.

By then both sides are expected to have provided Ito with comprehensive questionnaires to be filled out by prospective jurors.

Ito, who will combine the two versions and write the final questionnaire, has admitted he is worried about finding an impartial jury in the face of the overwhelming publicity the case has received.

"It keeps me up at night," he told Simpson's lead attorney Robert Shapiro and chief prosecutor Martha Clark, according to transcripts of an in-chambers hearing Tuesday.

Ito told the attorneys he expects to summon 1,000 jurors initially and have them fill in the questionnaire in batches of 250.

The judge will also partially sequester the jurors during the trial, which is set to begin September 19, meaning they will be "gathered up, brought to the court house, kept apart during the lunch hour and then taken home."

Deputy District Attorney William Hodgman told Ito Tuesday that a panel of prosecutors would decide by the end of this month if the District Attorney's Office will ask for the death penalty in the event of a conviction.

Woodstock '94: How the times have changed

J.D. Considine
BALTIMORE

NOBODY knew what to expect at Woodstock the first time around.

When the promoters were putting the original festival together 25 years ago, they figured there would be good music, pleasant weather and a crowd of just more than 60,000 people. Instead, they wound up with a half-million people (few of whom actually paid admission), torrential rains, and ancillary problems ranging from chocking traffic to a chronic shortage of food, medicine and sanitary facilities.

This time, they're prepared. Woodstock '94 may not turn out to be as epochal an event as the 1969 festival, but it will almost certainly be a more orderly and eco-friendly one. Working closely with New York State agencies and local communities, the promoters behind Woodstock '94 have done everything imaginable to ensure that things went smoothly when the gates opened yesterday in Saugerties. With luck, there should be no traffic snarls, no trouble finding toilets and no shortage of things to eat.

About the only thing they haven't worked out is how to keep it from raining. "But I don't think it will be a problem," says Michael Lang, who runs Woodstock Ventures along with John Roberts and Joel Rosenman. "It's usually not that bad up here. I mean, I've lived here for 25 years, and '69 was the worst period of weather that we've had. We may get some rain, but I don't think it will be severe."

Naturally, there will be plenty of music. Unlike the first festival, Woodstock '94 will have two stages, with live music on each.

Don't worry: The two, facing opposite directions, are about a third of a mile apart, says Lang, so there'll be little chance that the sound from one stage will interfere with the other.

Managing a crowd so large — by Wednesday, Woodstock Ventures had sold 168,029 of the 250,000 available tickets — and so young takes more than planning, though. It helps if there are certain ground rules in place and, as such, the promoters are issuing a list of do's and don'ts to all ticket holders.

Among the things that cannot be taken on-site:

- Firearms, knives, axes and hatchets.
- Tape recorders or video cameras.
- Stoves, grills, cooking utensils or lanterns.
- Glass or metal cans or bottles.

State health officials won't let food be taken in, except for those with special dietary needs. But that, says Lang, is mainly to keep people from getting sick off spoiled food. "If people want to bring crackers and stuff like that, nobody's going to give anybody a hard time," he says. "But the health department is really down on perishable foodstuffs."

There will be plenty of food for sale, of course, from hot dogs and hamburgers to vegetarian fare and kosher food. Lang suggests \$20 to \$25 a day for food, depending on how much you normally eat.

Drink is another matter. Not only aren't concert-goers permitted to take alcoholic beverages in with them, but there will be no alcohol available on-site, either. "One of the mandates that the



'69 or '94? A group of early arrivals sit at the entrance to the Woodstock II concert site.

(Reuters)

'Over 800 died fleeing E. Germany'

BERLIN (Reuters) — More than 800 people were killed trying to escape from communist East Germany, nearly three times the officially-recognized figure, researchers said on yesterday.

The 13th of August Society, named after the day the Berlin Wall was built in 1961, said evidence of more deaths kept coming to light from the files of East Germany's Stasi security police and East European states as well as the testimony of relatives.

Research had now uncovered at least 807 deaths along the Cold War inner-German border, including the wall dividing Berlin, a spokesman for the society told reporters.

Peter Cushing, actor, dead at 81

LONDON (Reuters) — British actor Peter Cushing, famous for his performances in a string of horror movies, died yesterday at 81, Kevin Francis, the producer of many of his films, said.

Cushing was best known to a generation of cinemagoers for his role as Baron Frankenstein in a series of Hammer horror films which began in the 1950s.

His gaunt figure, gentlemanly demeanor and controlled acting brought a chilling power to his portrayal of the mad scientist bent on creating monsters.

But he sometimes tired of the typecasting which such movies produced, once declaring: "If I played Hamlet, they'd call it a horror film."

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The latest Jerusalem probe

FAISAL Hussein, who is the Palestinian Authority's "minister for Jerusalem," is testing the government's resolve. By inviting representatives of foreign countries to his headquarters in Jerusalem's Orient House to discuss the freeing of funds for the Palestinian Authority, he clearly violated the Declaration of Principles and the Gaza/Jericho First agreement. The agreements clearly state that the authority's institutions must be confined to the self-rule areas.

As the government has repeatedly declared, Orient House can function as an institution serving local cultural, educational, and welfare needs. It cannot act as an agency of the authority, and it certainly must not function as a foreign ministry. In fact, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has said that if it did, "the whole Israel-PLO agreement will be rendered null and void."

Understandably, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres would like to minimize the importance of Hussein's official meetings with foreign diplomats. Perfunctory, he has asked his ministry's legal adviser to determine whether these meetings were legal, but added that they were anyway marginal and unnecessary. Impatient to get on with "the process," he obviously views such violations as little more than awkward nuisances. Like the inauspicious calls by Yasser Arafat for jihad and by his "foreign minister" Farouk Kaddoumi for the destruction of Israel, they must not get in the way of progress.

But it would be foolish for the government to underestimate the cumulative effect of relatively "minor" violations of the agreement. That under Israeli and American pressure, a needy and desperate Arafat consents to say that Kaddoumi's pronouncements are "incompatible with the spirit of the agreement" is hardly an indication of the revulsion and condemnation one had a right to expect of the PLO chief. That Kaddoumi is still the PLO's "foreign minister" and No. 2 in the organization speaks louder than the refined diplomatic language with which Arafat has chosen to chastise him.

Similarly, the impression of the latest Orient House incident is that representatives of foreign nations come to the Palestinian center in Jerusalem without hesitation when summoned by Hussein; that they raise the PLO flag on their cars when they travel in the eastern part of the city; that in Jerusalem, Israel's declared capital, they are guarded by the unofficial but highly visible Palestinian secret service; that they appear at Hussein's office to discuss matters of state without coordination with, let alone permission from the Israeli government; and that they report about their meetings not to their embassies in Tel Aviv, but directly to the foreign ministries in their capitals. If there is any difference between the

way they treat Orient House from the way they treat Israel's Foreign Ministry, it is not readily apparent to the naked eye.

To ignore the Palestinian efforts to establish political facts in Jerusalem is to play ostrich. With assiduity and persistence, the PLO is developing a bureaucratic, political infrastructure intended to present the world with a de facto Palestinian capital in the city by the time the "final status" talks begin in 1995. As PLO spokeswoman at the UN Fadah Abdel Haddi put it in June, "It is unrealistic for Israel to believe that it can hold on to all of Jerusalem. Jerusalem is a Palestinian center, not only religiously but politically. Much of the activity of the Palestinian Authority is planned and executed in Jerusalem."

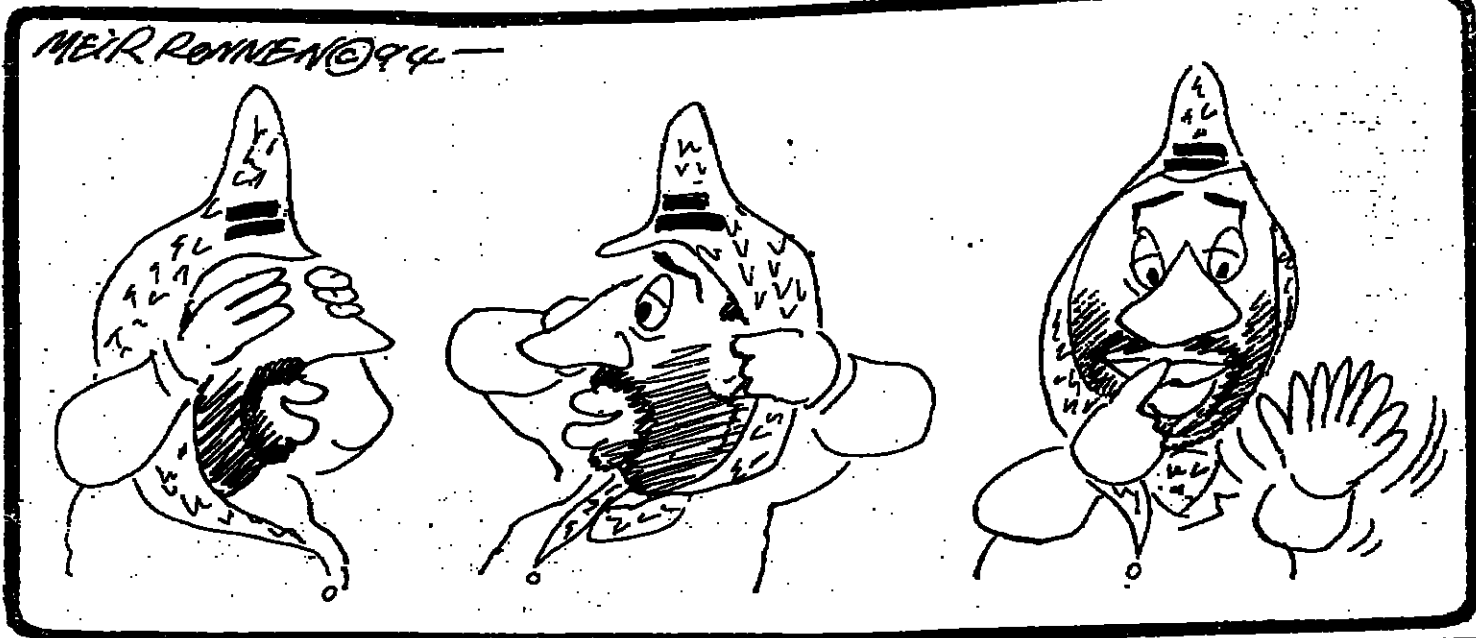
Nor is Hussein's "foreign ministry" at Orient House the only Palestinian quasi-governmental office in town. Only yesterday Peace Watch, a non-partisan organization dedicated to monitoring the implementation of the Israel-PLO agreement, discovered another institution in Jerusalem directly connected with the Palestinian Authority.

It is called The Palestinian Energy Center, and billed as a "national institution under the supervision of the National Palestinian Authority." According to its charter, its "initial start-up costs, the operation costs, and the direct costs are covered by the budget allocated to the center by the European Commission, the Palestinian National Authority, and by the funds raised from international cooperation."

There are at least three other major Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem closely connected with the Palestinian Authority: The Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Recovery (PECDAR), the Palestinian Radio and Television Authority, and the Palestinian Center for Statistics. All are supported by the international community.

That these institutions are internationally funded is hardly surprising. Most governments favor the involvement of eastern Jerusalem into a capital of the Palestinian state. And if the government is serious about keeping all of Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty, it will have to treat efforts to convert it into a Palestinian capital less flippantly.

Hussein's move is just the latest PLO probe in the campaign against Israel's intention to keep Jerusalem its undivided capital. It is not a campaign in which the PLO is alone. Its idea of "two capitals in one city" — a prescription for the redrawing of the city — has international as well as Israeli support. It cannot be countered by the wave of a minister's hand. Only firm insistence on Palestinian adherence to the spirit and the letter of the Oslo and Cairo agreements can prevent an irreversible deterioration in Israel's position in Jerusalem.



Answer the questions now

ABBA EBAN

THE Jordanian fortnight had a thesopod quality. The glow seemed too bright to be true. It was impossible for an Israeli to come away from Akaba without carrying a deep emotion into the future.

It is now time to come down to earth. The stark truth is that the peace process would never have come to life without the Oslo meeting, the embarrassed Rabin-Arafat handshake on the White House lawn, and the abrasive stammers of Arafat in Cairo.

How could anyone have expected Jordan, with its predominantly Palestinian demography, to present itself, through its gifted leader, in the United States Congress without the legitimacy conferred by the prior Israeli-PLO agreement? The Palestinians are the weakest of the Middle Eastern nations in physical terms, but they are the lever without which the vast Arab mass cannot be moved into new attitudes. We now see the truth expressed by the diplomatic historian Harold Nicholson: "Diplomacy, if it is to be realistic, should be a disagreeable business."

King Hussein and Yitzhak Rabin have illustrated the effect of a dynamic follow-up on the heels of dramatic symbolism. This has been made possible for Jordan and Israel by the luck of proximity and the availability of concrete development opportunities. The television glimpse of Prince Hassan lecturing leaders of the United Jewish Appeal is the most surrealistic picture that I take away from Akaba. Many things are too astonishing to be believed, but nothing is too astonishing to have actually happened.

The priorities now are the Palestinian and Syrian sector, in that order. One of the urgent questions is whether we need — or can afford — the obsession with transitional periods in the Palestinian and Syrian contexts. The Camp David accord on the West Bank and Gaza, the Oslo-Washington

THE rationale against momentum is that postponement creates opportunities for "confidence-building measures." There is nothing in history to sustain the illusion that unresolved issues and ambiguous arrangements create anything that can be described as confidence. Obscurity about where

Obscurity about where sovereignty lies has all the confidence potential of a tinder box

agreement and the Cairo accord postpone peace treaties to future dates. If we add the 1949 armistice accords and the Disengagement Agreements of 1974-5 we find that the whole of Middle Eastern diplomatic history amounts to a skillful exercise in the postponement of painful issues. Sometimes these are pushed away for three years, sometimes for five. Even in the brisk tempo of the Jordanian-Israeli relationship, the peace treaty is put into the pending tray.

In the Israeli-Syrian context the debate is waged between Israeli gradualism (a phased withdrawal over four or eight years) and Assad's momentum theory (everything to be done in a single year). This is already the major point of divergence. It is not a mere procedural detail. It may well decide the fate of the peace process.

sovereignty lies has all the confidence potential of a tinder box or a chapter in the history of Danzig. Henry Kissinger has hinted ominously that the self-governing Palestine authority might demand statehood and gain mass recognition.

"Once there was an elected self-governing authority on the West Bank, an irreversible political fact would be created on the territory over which its authority was supposed to run. However limited this authority, it would soon turn into the nucleus of something like a Palestine state, probably under PLO control. It would be so treated by almost all of the countries of the world except Israel."

The question is whether the Israeli interest can realistically be served by interim agreements which leave the permanent status of the West Bank, Gaza, and Golan unresolved for the 28th year. Like visits to a dentist,

mere postponement is never therapeutic. There is strong reason to believe that 1995-6 might be the best opportunity for clear-cut decisions on the issues of inter-state structures, community obligations and boundaries.

Even if the debate about sovereignty and boundaries is postponed on the operative schedule, it will rage in the media. At this time there is an Israeli government which supports a solution on the Golan similar to that which brought peace to the Egyptian-Israeli boundary. There is a Syrian leader whose rhetoric about peace was never uttered by any of his predecessors. My own experience in the Israeli-Syrian negotiation in 1974 leads me to believe that it is agonizingly difficult to get Assad to sign a contract, but he can be meticulous once it is signed.

On the basic issues the choice is between momentum and inertia. Israeli politicians, security experts and researchers should be given a busy time over the next two years. They should ask basic questions. Would a Palestinian mini-state, much weaker than Israel and Jordan, really be more dangerous than a confederation or a new vain effort at coercive rule? If real security can be obtained with demilitarization and monitored defense systems on the Golan, as it has been in Sinai, should peace with Syria be any less stable than it has been with Egypt?

Since these questions will have to be faced soon, why not now? There is a lot to be said for the wise Hillel.

The writer is a former foreign minister.

Go easy on King Hussein

MOSHE ZAK

A few days before Yasser Arafat banned the distribution of the Eastern Jerusalem Arabic daily *An-Nahar* in Gaza and Jericho, that pro-Jordanian paper prominently published a wide-ranging article titled "What is Pushing Hussein Toward Israel?"

Its 2,800 words detailed all the benefits Hussein has derived over the years from relations with Israel, including our preservation of his kingdom's integrity and the recommendation to Washington to grant him assistance.

In particular, it cited Israel's assurance regarding Hussein's standing as custodian of the Islamic holy sites in Jerusalem, despite Palestinian and Saudi pressure to deprive him of this. That article was not written at the instigation of the Jordanian royal family nor by a Palestinian journalist: it was a literal translation, without permission, of an article of mine published the day before in *Ma'ariv*.

I have no proof as to whether there was any direct connection between this article's publication and Arafat's administrative order against the paper. The link is purely circumstantial. But, clearly, when the Washington Declaration corroborated what *An-Nahar* wrote about Israel promising priority status for Jordan in the Islamic holy places, Arafat decided to act at once.

Physically, Arafat is unable to prevent an Arabic newspaper from appearing in Jerusalem, but he flexed his muscles by remote control to show he could still bring about such a paper's closure in an area under Israeli control.

Hussein is unlikely to have raised this issue when he met Prime Minister Rabin this week in Akaba. He is not accustomed to speaking of the PLO explicitly in his conversations with Israelis. He expects them to draw their conclusions from other statements by him.

But he is anxiously following Israeli reactions to the PLO's subver-

sive activities in Jerusalem. It is reasonable to assume he expected a sophisticated Israeli reaction to Arafat's demonstrative step with regard to *An-Nahar*, but his expectations were not met.

On the contrary, Rabin went off to meet with Arafat at the Erez checkpoint without conditioning the meeting on cancellation of the Palestinian Authority's order against *An-Nahar*. This, despite the Palestinian declara-

Jordan, but cannot change basic US administrative patterns. We could contribute 4m. cubic meters of water to Jordan but not at the expense of rationing our own supply to accommodate Jordan's urgent need. Solving the water shortage is a long-term project.

HUSSEIN DISPLAYED personal courage and political wisdom in making the breakthrough with Israel, but

Things should not be made difficult for Hussein by demanding an increased pace of normalization

tion on the eve of the talks that Arafat would protest to Rabin the special status Israel is granting Jordan over the holy sites.

In fact, Arafat rushed to provoke Hussein by sending an invitation to the King of Morocco to visit the holy places in Jerusalem, as though he were the custodian there.

Israel's negligence to block Arafat's subversion could cool Hussein's belief in Israel's ability to secure the Hashemite kingdom's economic and religious interests west of the river — a belief which was one of the causes of the Washington Declaration. At the moment, the king is pressing ahead and initiating moves and meetings. Israel, hungry for peace, cannot stop this course.

On the other hand, we should take into account that Hussein will soon want to demonstrate to his people what peace means. He needs more American money right away, and he expects more water immediately.

Israel can ask Washington to hasten the confirmation process for aid to

the day is not far off when his public will want more than ceremonies and will demand the benefits of the revolution. He faces public difficulties, and the more we make it difficult for him by demanding faster normalization, the more he will be pushed into making statements — without involving a retreat from the peace process — to calm his critics.

After 31 years of talking with Israel and 38 understandings and agreements, the new bridge of meetings between the two countries, in full daylight, has been built, bit by bit. A Jordanian commander once asked Moshe Dayan to try to get *The Jerusalem Post* to stop praising him because it harmed him in the Arab world! The Post, he suggested, would do better to publish criticism of him. That situation has disappeared forever.

Hussein is interested in public praise from Israel to influence favorably American public opinion; he needs US generosity to extricate him from his economic distress. So he

will not go far in statements aimed at calming the Palestinians over Jerusalem.

On the other hand, his domestic constraints must be taken into account in the interim period before he can demonstrate the economic fruits of peace with Israel. Things should not be made difficult for him by demanding an increased pace of normalization. The rate of progress should be left up to him.

Therefore, our dream of visiting Petra should wait rather than risk a Ras Burka-type incident which could rip apart the delicate fabric now being woven. We should give Hussein time to convince his masses — not just the government elite which he consolidated with such talent — of the rightness of his path, and to educate them into peaceful coexistence with Israel.

There was great excitement when Hussein flew over Tel Aviv and Jerusalem last week, but few knew that in July 1950 the late Reuven Shiloah, on behalf of the government, proposed in a conversation with King Abdullah at his palace to grant Jordan overflight rights through Israel's airspace. The government wanted Abdullah's permission in return to refund planes bringing immigrants to Israel from Iraq at the Jordanian airfield at Ma'afa.

Abdullah expressed understanding of Israel's needs, but claimed he feared an attack on the immigrants while they were on Jordanian territory. The masses are indeed still not ripe, as then, for peace with Israel.

So the air corridor has had to wait 44 years, but the need for caution and measured steps toward a settlement remains. Israel has more than once made clear to Hussein that his survival and sovereignty are an Israeli interest. All the more so, now, when a minefield has been cleared to pave the way to peace, we should not press him with hasty steps.

The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on current affairs.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CONDITIONS OF ARABS IN JERUSALEM

Sir, — I would like to take issue with Bill Hutman's July 29 feature article about Amir Cheshin, the city's former advisor on Arab neighborhoods.

I have great sympathy for Amir Cheshin's feelings. He was always the address for all the complaints from the Arab sector whether justified or not, and he was rarely thanked.

However, I believe that this article gives your readers the impression that the Arabs were badly treated on principle and that the taxes they paid were not spent in their sector. This is not correct.

In 1967, immediately after the fighting, at the expense of the city we brought water to every Arab home in Jerusalem despite the cost. Under Jordanian rule only 10% of the homes had running water. When Jerusalem was reunited, the gap in the conditions between East and West Jerusalem was so great that as much as we worked to improve services in the Arab sector, we could not completely close the gap.

The infrastructure in the Old City alone was a very expensive undertaking and the Jewish Quarter had been totally destroyed and had to be entirely rebuilt. Of course, the Jewish Quarter looks a lot better than the Moslem Quarter where we only strengthened the foundations, built a new sewer system, repaired roads, but left the buildings as they were.

We built a health clinic in Sheikh Jarrah which is considered one of the best in the country. It treats between 900 to 1,000 patients daily and is staffed by Arab doctors and Arab nurses. This clinic was not funded mainly by Arab municipal taxes, it was and continues to be subsidized by the Jerusalem Foundation. We built a new Arab Central Library with money that I personally received as a prize at the Frankfurt Book Fair and with money from the Jerusalem Foundation. The library is maintained by the municipality.

Amir Cheshin claims that no tulips were planted in East Jerusalem, but the truth is that when we planted tulips or any other flowers, they were

Old City built by Suleiman the Magnificent.

When tax money was insufficient, the Jerusalem Foundation added funds in order to enable the city to carry out projects to improve conditions in the Arab sector.

I believe that the one area in which Arab complaints are most justified is in the realm of building licenses. It was the decision of the government to limit the number of licenses granted in the Arab sector. They were working on the assumption that the fewer houses built, the fewer Arabs in Jerusalem. This was completely wrong. This policy only led to more crowded conditions in East Jerusalem and more resentment of the Israeli authorities.

A high-ranking Russian politician by the name of Ratskov, who spent some time both in Israel and in Arab countries, made statements in the press that the Arabs in Jerusalem had the best conditions anywhere in the Arab world.

Arabs in Jerusalem have freedom of worship and access to the Temple Mount, the right to vote, freedom of the press, freedom of education, freedom of travel, and they receive the benefits that all residents of the city share. They receive national insurance payments and access to health care.

As Jews, we know better than most people that it is never a pleasure to be a minority, but it is even more difficult when you do not participate in the decision-making process. The Arabs in Jerusalem never recognized our authority and even when we suggested that they join the city council (even if they began each meeting with a denunciation of Israeli rule), they refused. Immediately after reunification, many Arabs believed that the situation would not last and that Jerusalem would return to Jordanian rule. However, that did not occur and Jerusalem remained united.

It is certainly true that East and West Jerusalem are not equal in services and that a substantial gap exists but it is not the case that East Jerusalem was neglected or deliberately overlooked.

JERUSALEM'S ARABS

Sir, — I do not dispute anything that appeared in Bill Hutman's interview with me ("Capital's man on Arab affairs says bye to City Hall" — July 29). However, I would not like readers to think that the article summarizes my decade at the Jerusalem Municipality.

Much of what City Hall did achieve in East Jerusalem was missing from the article. The expansion of municipal boundaries in 1967 led to widespread neglected areas' being included within the city. It was necessary to connect them to water and sanitation facilities as well as to build access roads and provide other essential services for the population. A great deal was accomplished despite limited budgets and difficult topographical conditions.

Supported by contributions of the Jerusalem Foundation, the municipality was also able to carry out projects that benefited all residents, like the restoration of the Old City's walls, gates and crumbling infrastructure, as well as creating fine institutions to serve the population of East Jerusalem, for example, the Sheikh Jarrah Medical Center, the Paley Art Center and the Central Arabic Library.

More could have been done and should be done now. It is important to remember, however, that the Arabs, bowing to political pressure, never exercised the rights always available to them to participate in municipal politics and thereby be part of the decision-making process.

My decade at City Hall was challenging, but there were successes as well as frustrations.

AMIR CHESHIN

Jerusalem.

ISRAEL'S SURVIVAL

Sir, — It is an absolute disgrace that the Rabin and Peres team is tearing Israel's heart out. The West Bank is, and should always be, a part of Israel.

I have cashed in all my Israel Bonds and will no longer support the UJA because Israel will not survive as a nation without the West Bank.

How in heaven's name can you trust Arafat, the murderer of Jewish children?

POSTSCRIPTS

DOP DEALER: Reader Eric Gutwillig from Haifa points out that DOP is not only the initials of the Declaration of Principles, but in plastics technology, DOP is short for dioctyl phthalate. This widely used chemical's function is to plasticize, or soften. Make flexible. Allow something to be bent or stretched out of shape.

Such as, perhaps, a solemnly sworn promise.

A' WELSH rugby fan just had to get to London to see Wales play England. So of course, he sold the slates off the roof of his house to pay for the trip.

game. And his team lost. But the worst was still to come.

Stephen Spiller, a 34-year-old unemployed builder of Pont-y-gwaith, watched the game in a beer tent outside Twickenham ground because the £265 he raised from selling the slates was not enough to buy a ticket from scalpers.

Adding insult to the injury of Wales losing, when he got home he found that his sacrifice had become known and he'd been given a gift of new slates — but from an Englishman.

According to the London Times, Spiller's wife Debbie said: "Steve is gutted that Wales lost but at least he

roof, but this is great news."

The new roof, worth £1,000, was donated by Asphaltic Roofing Spillers in London. A company spokesman said: "We all had a good laugh about this chap selling his roof and felt he deserved a consolation prize slate clean."

The Times related that the truckload of tiles was delivered to Spiller home even before Stephen managed to return home.

But Spiller was not overcome with gratitude. "At first Steve wasn't too happy about any gift from an Englishman,"

tant than rugby. Well, I think I've convinced him."

Jonathan Schonfeld

MOURNERS SMELLED smoke at a funeral and when a mortician investigated, he found a fire inside the coffin.

Investigators in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, said embalming fluid leaking from the body of the deceased may have caused a chemical reaction inside the coffin, touching off the fire.

After the funeral, officials at the

East Bank problems

YOSEF GOELL

ON the day of the truly historic, but also impressively and at times kitschily staged Israel-Jordan de-facto peace extravaganza north of Eilat, *The Jerusalem Post* published the most recent in a long trail of "Jordan is Palestine" readers' letters.

There are usually two prongs to this argument. The first is that the Kingdom of Jordan comprises 80 percent of the former Ottoman territories granted to Great Britain as a mandate by the League of Nations at the end of World War I. These territories were given to Britain for the express purpose of establishing a Jewish national home but Perfidious Albion reneged on that trust by cutting them off from the terms of the mandate for Palestine and barring them to Jewish settlement.

The argument's second prong points out that between two-thirds and three-quarters of the Jordanian population of four million are of "Palestinian origin." Many of these Palestinians successfully assimilated into Hashemite Jordan but many others languish in poverty-stricken refugee camps. All have been accorded Jordanian citizenship, as opposed to the situation in other Arab countries where Palestinian refugees have been denied citizenship.

Both these arguments are based on historical truth; but, so what? The people who use them do so as code words intended to buttress the claim that since the Palestinians east of the river already have their "Palestinian state" there is no justification for a second Palestinian state on the West Bank.

This may be a persuasive argument to some Jews — especially those who believe literally that our God promised us the entire land. But it is on a par with the Palestinian argument that the imperialist-dominated League of Nations, and its successor the United Nations, were totally unjustified in ceding even the tiniest sliver of this land to anyone but the Arabs. This argument is especially persuasive with those Arabs who also believe that our God promised the whole world to the Moslems.

Such arguments and counter-arguments have little impact on hardened diplomacy, and the even harder military and economic facts of life that back up the final disposition of real estate and sovereignties among contending peoples. It is in the light of such political realities that not only have Prime Minister Rabin and For-

sign Minister Peres reassured King Hussein that the Israel they represent holds no truck with the Jordan-is-Palestine thesis, but opposition leader Binyamin Netanyahu took the trouble of meeting Crown Prince Hassan to deliver a similar message in the name of the Likud.

Our leaders should turn their minds to the problem of the Palestinian component in Jordan's identity

SO if everyone seems to be agreed that the Jordan-is-Palestine thesis is a nonstarter, why continue chewing the cud? Because of that second set of facts: that a large proportion of Jordanians do think of themselves as Palestinians. In the volatile state that marks national identities in the Arab Middle East this could be a problem; both for King Hussein and his Hashemite dynasty and for Israel. Even at this moment of euphoria, our leaders should turn their minds to the problem of the Palestinian component in Jordan's identity.

If anyone still had any doubts, the Rabin-Hussein extravaganza of the past two weeks constituted clinching evidence that Rabin's Israel much prefers conducting business with King Hussein than with the PLO's Arafat.

Much has been made of the king's bravery; the more apt term for that Great Survivor would be extreme carelessness. Had he exhibited less care and greater bravery he would have made the breakthrough with Israel either in carrying out his London agreement with Shimon Peres in 1987 or by upstaging the PLO last summer. Had he done so, there would have been no need for an Oslo agreement with the PLO. Had he been less careful, our brave little king might also have been dead.

Israel has committed herself to the implementation of the Oslo agreement but has now tempered some of

its worst ambiguities by initiating a rapid normalization process with Jordan. The two processes need not be mutually inimical, although it should put a crimp in some of Arafat's more extreme demands.

The problem is that the king has lately been signaling his people that the state of his health may force him to leave the scene in the not too distant future. The Arab Middle East, and Jordan, are so volatile that it is foolhardy to try to predict who and what will come after Hussein. What is certain is that the contradictory forces within Jordanian society will lead to a tempestuous interregnum until the succession issue is finally settled, bloodily or otherwise.

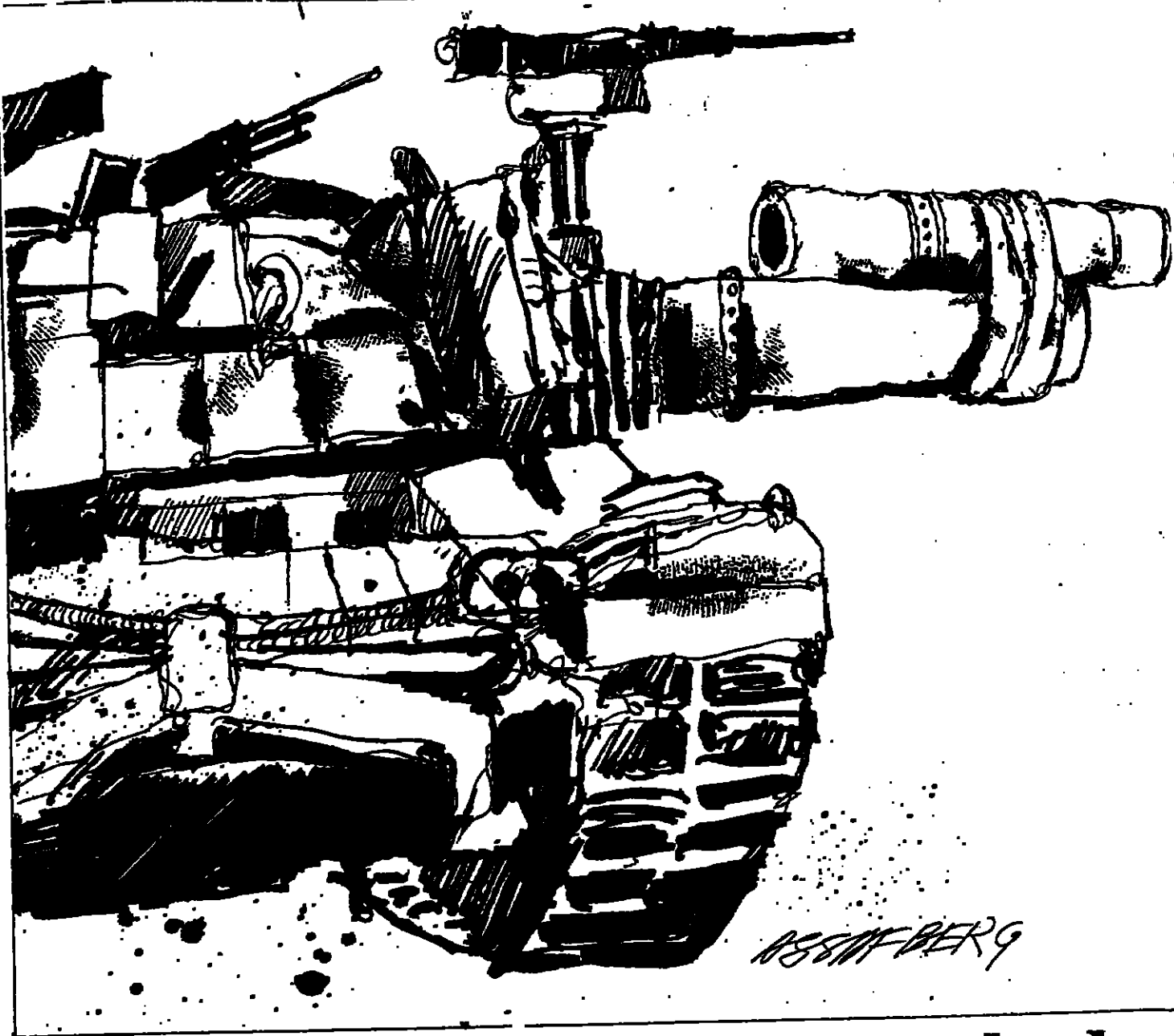
Israel must look to her own interests in contemplating that not too distant future. The worst alternative for Israel would be either Palestinian radical forces or Moslem Brotherhood fundamentalists taking over Jordan. Equally menacing would be the outright invasion or the gradual insinuation of Syrian, Iraqi or Saudi forces into Jordan on the pretext of Arab brotherhood.

Such external invasions could in all likelihood be fended off by a combination of American pressure and Israeli threats of counterinvasion, as was successfully done in repelling the incipient Syrian invasion of Jordan in 1971.

What is of even greater importance is Israel's role in foiling any attempt by a PLO autonomous self-government or Hamas supporters from west of the Jordan becoming involved in the post-Hussein succession struggle. To do this, Israel must ensure that in its negotiations on the implementation of the Oslo accord's last stage, it insists on retaining and annexing as wide a swathe as possible of the Jordan Rift Valley and of the western shores of the Dead Sea. This annexation is needed to prevent the slightest continuity between Jordan and the Palestinian autonomy or quasi-sovereignty.

The PLO will clearly object to any such Israeli demand. One of the possible trade-offs Israel could offer is a readiness to recognize the Palestinian autonomy areas as a Palestinian "state," something to which Israel has not agreed so far. But it is crucial that Israel do her utmost to prevent Jordan coming under Palestinian control — especially a Jordan that abuts on hostile Syria and Iraq.

The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on current affairs.



Slice, don't chop, the defense budget

GABRIEL BEN-DOR

CUTTING defense budgets in Western democracies is very much like the story of the robber, who, when asked by the judge why he had robbed the bank, answered with majestic and logical simplicity "because that is where the money is."

Any serious attempt to cut budgets in peacetime by necessity involves a reduction in allocations for defense. After all, this is the only truly major item in the budget which is large enough to be worth bothering with, and a cut in which does not reflect on the standard of living, or the quality of life — unlike health, housing, education, welfare and practically everything else.

In fact, defense budgets have been cut in Israel for almost a decade. Some of these cuts have had to do with the attrition in the real value of US aid, which has been more or less constant in dollar terms while the price of military hardware has increased consistently and substantially.

Some of the cuts have been small reductions due first to the relief that Israel enjoyed on account of the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s, and later due to the concomitant small reduction in the defense budget of Syria, the main threat to Israel's security over the past 15 years. The cuts in the Syrian budget were, one should note, the product of dire economic straits in that desperately overextended country.

Yet the present controversy touches on different, more fundamental issues. It centers on the idea of a conscious reduction in defense out-

lays over time, on the assumption that a successful peace process should yield an immediate dividend in the form of economic benefits. The idea is more or less sound, yet cuts in the defense budget may cause serious

Flexibility is also important. We do not know what threats the future may produce. We need to be able to shift resources quickly from one branch of the forces to another, and from preference for one type of weapons sys-

It is possible to cut the defense budget in a way that minimizes the security risk to the country

harm, unless they reflect the wisdom of accumulated experience in this country as well as others.

Accordingly, a number of principles should be followed in implementing the cuts. Firstly, nothing should be irreversible. The present situation may be amenable to budget relief, but this can quickly change if and when the regional situation turns to the worse. This can take the form of a coup d'état in a major Arab country, the triumph of Islamic fundamentalism in overthrowing moderate regimes and a general break-down of the peace process. In any of these cases, we will have to increase our strength again, and quickly. In practical terms, this means we need to reduce the level of intensity in training and the general volume of manning, but we should not abolish units. They may be needed later. And the image of readiness may serve to deter would-be aggressors.

Hence we should not phase out major parts of our defense capability, but should reduce the capability within each component of the system, or of those parts which are strong and are not needed to be stronger in the immediate future. We can cut tactical forces, which is to say forces that engage in skirmishes, deal with routine threats, and which win battles. But we must not cut forces that win wars! Strategic arms such as long-range planes, the navy's long-range vessels, and the main concentrations of mechanized infantry, armor and artillery should not be cut. Above all, our intelligence capabilities need to be protected and even enhanced. This still leaves plenty to be cut from our large and diverse military establishment.

More economic considerations should also be introduced into the defense system. Practically every time such considerations have been

introduced, efficiency rose to a point where cuts could be made without much damage, if any. When commanders know that they have a fixed number of days of reserve soldiers, their disposal, they tend to use them in a wasteful manner, because they pay no price and risk no penalty in doing.

When they must account for days that they use, and when saving them allows them to use other resource (hardware, ammunition, new technology, better facilities) for the benefit of their units, drastic improvement becomes a feasible option, and cuts no longer hurt.

By following the above principle coherently and consistently, it is possible to cut the defense budget in a way that minimizes the security risk to the country, while maximizing its contribution to the economy as a society.

A haphazard series of cuts, on the other hand, reductions that are the result of political lobbying, pressure and infighting, can be dangerous and counterproductive in the long run. Intelligent and thoughtful cuts in defense budgets are among the surest tests of any democracy's sophistication. Merely being happy that we are in a situation where we can take the test does not substitute the need to pass it with flying colors.

The writer is professor of political science at the University of Haifa and academic director for the Graduate Studies Program at the IDF's National Security College.

The court need not always decide

ALLAN E. SHAPIRO

STRENGTHENED by the public acclaim of the Jordanian breakthrough, Prime Minister Rabin has decided to return to his major internal front — the strengthening of his majority coalition. At a press conference in Eilat, Rabin declared that he saw no need for going to the polls now.

This brings back into focus Labor's deal with Shas, according to which Shas would be guaranteed against changes in the status quo in religious affairs. According to the agreement, Rabin promised to sponsor legislation that would, in effect, cancel judicial decisions adversely affecting religious interests. Both Meretz and important elements within Labor itself, reject the deal as an infringement of the rule of law.

Actually, there is certainly nothing very novel in political deals which reverse judicial decisions changing the religious status quo. The most striking example is the Shalit case, involving the "Who's a Jew?" issue. In that case, the High Court ordered that the children of Major Benjamin Shalit and his gentile wife be registered as Jews in the population registry. An agreement was speedily made between Ya'acov Shimshon Shapiro, Golda Meir's justice minister, and the NRP leader, Moshe Haim Shapiro, to reverse the court's ruling.

Interestingly enough, there was no public outcry protesting that this deal, and the legislation which followed, violated the rule of law. Many disagreed with Meir's decision to make the deal for the sake of the hallowed "historic alliance" with the National Religious Party. Many in the secular majority thought that Ya'acov Shimshon Shapiro had betrayed party prin-

bat telecasts possible. At the same time, the court was faced with a petition to invalidate the military deferment of yeshiva students. Presented with this double challenge, the court decided to lower its profile.

At its own initiative, the High Court, in both cases, raised preliminary objections. The technical rule of standing to sue was invoked in order to dismiss both cases, without discussing their merits. The court frankly acknowledged in its opinions that, where hot political issues were involved, the standing requirements should be applied with maximum stringency.

The Shalit and Shabbat TV episodes took place in 1970. In the 1980s, the court changed course. As the protector of the rule of law, it all but abandoned standing requirements, as well as other technical avoidance devices. As a result, for all the additional power that the court possesses today, it lacks an essential power of any political institution — the power to control its own agenda.

In religious circles today, the attitude to the court after the enactment of the recent basic laws on human rights is strongly reminiscent of the atmosphere after the decision in the Shalit "Who's a Jew?" case. Again, there is the fear of judicial encroachment on the religious status quo. Again, as after the Shalit case, sound judicial strategy should dictate that the court lower its institutional profile. Above all, it must return to the means it used successfully after the Shalit decision to restore its control over its own agenda and to give it the means to avoid involvement in issues beyond judicial capabilities.

The writer is a legal and political commentator.

There is certainly nothing very novel in political deals which reverse judicial decisions

In the aftermath of the Shalit decision, another crisis threatened Golda Meir's coalition with the NRP. This was the inauguration of television broadcasting on Shabbat. The initial telecast on the Shabbat eve was made possible by a writ issued that same evening, after Shabbat's commencement, by Justice Zvi Berenson. Religious reaction was little short of physical violence.

Immediately afterwards, the High Court was asked by Rabbi Simha Meron, an NRP jurist, to invalidate the work permits that made the Shab-

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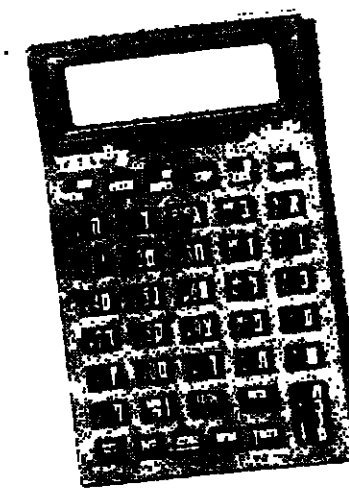
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BUSINESS & FINANCE

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 1994

Sweden rate hike sends shivers around Europe

Italy also raises rates, German debt prices fall

STOCKHOLM (Reuters) - Sweden's Central Bank sent a shiver around European financial markets with a surprise interest rate increase yesterday but analysts watching the country's general election campaign said the move was in part political.

"The purpose of the increase in interest rates is to counteract, at an early stage, a tendency towards higher inflation," bank governor Urban Backstrom said in a statement.

The bank raised its central repo rate to 7.20 percent from 6.92 percent and its ceiling, or lending rate, to 8 percent from 7.50 percent. The floor, or deposit rate, was left unchanged at 6 percent.

Bonds suffered most of all, with the benchmark nine-year bond yield soaring 45 basis points to 11.28 percent and the three-year bond yield rising 70 basis points to 10.62 percent.

Meanwhile, the Bank of Italy's half-point discount rate increase to 7.5 percent left analysts stunned and confused yesterday, with many skeptical that the move would fulfill its aim of defending the embattled lira.

The rise, accompanied by a half-point rise in the fixed-term advances (Lombard) rate to 8.5 percent, did not stop the lira slumping some 10 lire to a fresh record low of 1,016.50 against the German mark within 30 minutes.

"They just hit the panic button and the markets are not going to be too impressed," said David Brown, chief economist with Tokai Bank (Europe) in London.

German debt prices plunged as the surprise moves sparked fears that Bundesbank rate cuts are drawing to a close and a new era of higher European rates might be dawning.

"The problem here is it's a rate rise in Europe," said Richard Adcock, manager of technical analysis at Midland Global Markets in London.

The German debt market has fought a losing battle against global rate hike and inflationary fears since early February, when the United States heralded the end of world easing by raising short-term rates.

Since then, the September bond (bond) future has shed 8 percent of its value.

But the Swedish move to raise two of its three key rates and a half-point hike in the Italian discount rate brought the threat much nearer to home.

The Swedish move, painted by its central bank as a strike against inflationary tendencies building in the economy, prompted speculation that interest rates will soon rise around Europe but economists said such fears were unfounded.

"Sweden is very different. It's further ahead in the (economic) cycle," said Steven Major, Paris-based head of bond research at Credit Lyonnais, noting that Sweden was among the first European countries to pull out of recession.

But Major said markets "are right to focus on the turn in (economic) cycles elsewhere in Europe." Bond markets began their search for the bottom of the German economic cycle last week after June manufacturing orders data showed a stronger than expected rise. In Copenhagen the mood was grim after poor corporate results a day earlier from insulin maker Novo Nordisk and the top-20 KFX index closed 2.34 points lower at 101.70.

It pays to remember your shareholder

COMMENT

NEIL COHEN

EARLIER this week one of the Hebrew papers published a report, without comment, that a number of companies listed on the TASE had "forgotten" to inform shareholders or the stock exchange of forthcoming annual general meetings, or had informed them only after the event.

Companies are statutorily required to announce the meetings by printing a small announcement in the press, and informing the stock exchange, registered shareholders, the Securities Authority and the Registrar of Companies.

The stock exchange confirmed the instances mentioned in the report, but said it had no powers to take any action against companies failing to report to it. The Securities Authority said no specific instances had been referred to it. The authority does have the power to fine companies but it tends to take a lenient view of first offenses, and in any event fines tend to be nominal, amounting to a slap on the wrist at best.

In the US, where corporate governance and market regulations are most vigilant, such offenses

would likely draw lawsuits from shareholders and the exchange on which the shares were listed would look seriously at delisting the company's shares.

One case mentioned involved a company voting to grant its controlling shareholder an NIS 850,000 loan. Failing to inform shareholders that such issues are to be voted on is known as railroading, since the only people voting on the issue are interested parties.

In any securities market, effective regulation of such issues is vital to protect investors. Poor regulation only raises the cost of capital by leading investors to demand a higher premium for the additional perceived risk.

The more so in a developing economy with a young securities market, where most companies are controlled by a single entity. In free market environments no one is forced to buy shares in anything; this, though, is no excuse for poor regulation. In the meantime, investors' only recourse against managers who play fast and loose with them is to sell their shares. They should.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Business Data Int'l looks towards Jordan: Multinational business database Graydon, a jointly-held subsidiary of European firms Hermes, Coface and NCM, has asked Israeli subsidiary BDI to examine the possibility of establishing a branch office in Jordan. CEO Ayal Yanai said: "The Jordanian, and future Syrian and other offices, will provide business information to Israeli companies on business and market trends."

Interbeauty to float 25 percent share issue on TASE: The cosmetics manufacturer and importer is 30% held by L'Oreal, 12% by Claridge and 58% by private investors, including the Proper family who also holds an interest in Osem. A final date for issue was not given.

IEC tender won by Israeli and Swiss concerns: The Israel Electric Corporation has awarded a \$7.5 million contract for computerized high voltage control and protection systems to Swiss firm ABB and Feuchtwanger subsidiary Afecon, which will receive some NIS 2.3m. out of the total amount.

Savings programs attract fewer customers: Bank savings programs attracted 11.4% fewer deposits last month than in June, totaling NIS 350m., the Treasury reported yesterday. Since the beginning of the year, savings programs have accumulated NIS 1.281 billion.

WORLD BRIEFS

US wholesales prices soar: Wholesale prices took their biggest jump in 15 months in July as gasoline costs soared, the Labor Department reported yesterday, adding to pressures for another interest rate increase.

Producer prices jumped 0.5 percent in July, compared with a flat rate in June, the department said. The rise was more than economists had expected. *Reuters*

Coffee prices plunge: Coffee prices, already in retreat from recent 8 1/2-year highs, took a fresh dive yesterday as a nervous market awaited a key report on recent frost damage to the huge Brazilian crop.

On the London Commodity Exchange (LCE), coffee for November delivery ended down \$83 to \$3,200 a ton in thin trade. *Reuters*

American farmers will harvest a record soybean crop and their second-largest corn crop in a hearty rebound from 1993's disappointing crops, the Agriculture Department said yesterday.

The harvests would represent an astonishing recovery from last year's flood- and frost-stunted levels if the forecasts prove true. The corn crop would be 45% larger than last year and soybeans up 26%. *Reuters*

Philips Electronics NV, flagship of the European consumer electronics industry, yesterday announced more than trebled quarterly profits, leaving all brokers' forecasts in its wake.

Net profit from normal operations soared to \$2.6m. in the second quarter of the year from \$60m. a year earlier, although total net profit was down because of a huge one-off gain of \$618m. in the year-ago period. *Reuters*

Shell earnings fall: Oil giant Royal Dutch Shell group disappointed stock market by posting a 7% fall in earnings for the second quarter yesterday, as lower oil prices ate into its income from exploration and production. *Reuters*

Leumi considers contract delays

EVELYN GORDON

BANK Leumi's board of directors will consider a request by a Knesset Finance Committee subcommittee to delay the implementation of new contracts for senior bank officials at a meeting today, chairman of the board Moshe Sanbar promised yesterday.

The new, personal contracts were offered to six senior employees in place of the existing collective agreement. They state that if the employees are fired, they will receive 100 percent severance pay instead of the usual 100%. The contracts have not yet been signed, however.

Sanbar rejected the charge by MK Silvan Shalom (Likud), chairman of the Finance Committee's capital markets subcommittee, that the new contracts might hurt the sale of Leumi by forcing prospective buyers to pay more to get rid of existing management. The new contracts would actually ease the sale, Sanbar said, because a prospective buyer would be able to fire whom-

ever he wished, without the difficulties caused by the collective agreement's tenure system.

Gil Leidner, managing director of M.I. Holdings, also said he did not believe the new contracts would interfere with selling the bank, and Supervisor of Banks Ze'ev Abeles added that there was nothing wrong with the way the decision was made.

Shalom, however, was not convinced by Sanbar's arguments.

"This is tenure plus!" he said, noting that even tenured workers can be fired, but the new contracts make firing more expensive. In any case, he said, the decision should be left to the new owner, since the sale is slated to take place soon.

He therefore asked the bank to reconsider its decision, and Sanbar agreed to bring the request to today's board meeting.

Banks can pay interest on resident Patam foreign currency accounts

JOSE ROSENFELD

COMMERCIAL banks will be able to pay interest on residents' Patam foreign currency accounts following the cabinet economic committee's decision on Wednesday night to reduce liquidity requirements, the Treasury reported yesterday.

At the same meeting the committee approved a series of other projects and measures, including travel port fees, a joint venture between the Dead Sea Bromide Group and Great Lakes Chemical Corp., and establishing Tahal subsidiaries in Florida and Venezuela. It also okayed setting up a joint company between Bezeq and Motorola to provide cellular telephone services and permitting Israel Aircraft Industries to exercise its option to purchase 10 percent of Celcom.

The committee approved the Bank of

Israel's recommendation to unify the liquidity requirements for residents' foreign currency accounts. It agreed to lower the Patam foreign currency account's 100% liquidity requirement to 8% as in Patam foreign currency accounts by reducing the liquidity requirement by 3% a month for 2 1/2 years. The Patam accounts will be converted into Patam accounts once they reach the same liquidity levels as Patam accounts.

Patam accounts consist of residents' foreign currency deposits which, in most cases, can only be redeemed in shekels. In contrast, Patam deposits can be redeemed in foreign currency. Due to the 100% liquidity requirement on Patam accounts, the banks do not pay any interest on deposits, while Patam accounts usually pay interest.

Makhteshim profits rise by 25%

MAKHTESHIM Chemical Works second quarter net profits rose 25 percent to NIS 17.75 million from NIS 11.7m. on revenues of NIS 290.5m., compared to NIS 252.8m. in the same period last year.

American Israeli Paper Mills re-

COMPANY RESULTS

RACHEL NEIMAN

ported second quarter net losses of NIS 3.5 million in contrast to a net profit of NIS 5.7m. in the same period last year. Revenues were NIS 191.3m., compared to NIS 192.8m. in 1993.

The company said the drop resulted from a 10% drop in retail prices, start-up operating expenses of paper-goods subsidiary Grafit, and a decline in value of the company securities portfolio.

Azulin Properties and subsidiary Clal Real Estate have announced net profits of NIS 1.3 million, compared to NIS 2,000 for the second quarter of 1994 on revenues of NIS 10.5m., compared to NIS 11.6m. in the par-

allel period last year. Earnings per share were NIS 0.036, compared to 1993 second quarter losses per share of NIS 0.002.

1993 net profits were affected by shifts in the dollar rate and the gap between projected and actual COL rate, which affected income from retirement home projects. The company said implementation of an investment and development policy had helped growth.

Indigo reported a second-quarter net loss of \$8.9m., compared to a net loss of \$7.2m. the same period last year. Revenues were \$10m., up from \$3.2m.

Clal Computers and Technologies announced second quarter net profits of NIS 1.7m., compared with NIS 567,000 in the comparable period in 1993.

Granit Hacerim has reported a fall in second quarter net profits to NIS 7.79 million from NIS 10.74m. in the same period last year.

Pioneer International Ltd

South African Economic Statistics

| | Price 1989 | Price 1994 | % Change |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|----------|
| Exchange rates: | | | |
| (buy) Commercial rand | 3.611 | 3.646 | 0.98% |
| (buy) Financial rand | 4.595 | 4.565 | -0.66% |
| Interest rates: | | | |
| (Ry) Money market (BAAs) | 10.95% | 11.00% | 0.45% |
| Escom 2008 | 14.10% | 14.27% | 1.19% |
| Escom 2020 | 14.95% | 14.27% | 4.73% |
| RSA 150 | 13.97% | 14.13% | -1.15% |
| UAL Max Income | 14.42% | 14.34% | 0.56% |
| Prices: UTI: | | | |
| (buy) OM Investments | 42,6850 | 41,5345 | 2.77% |
| Escom 168 | 77,95181 | 77,08856 | 1.12% |
| Guardbank | 36,3565 | 35,6614 | 1.95% |
| UAL Gilt | 12,2112 | 12,1393 | 0.59% |
| Max Income | 10,4259 | 10,4044 | 0.21% |
| Shares: | | | |
| (close) De Beers | 119,25 | 113,00 | 5.53% |
| Anglo American | 405,00 | 408,00 | -0.74% |
| Barlows | 254,00 | 253,00 | 0.40% |
| SA Brews | 35,50 | 34,00 | 1.47% |
| Sasol | 88,50 | 87,75 | 0.85% |
| Tiger Oats | 33,25 | 28,25 | 17.09% |
| Iscor | 45,00 | 43,00 | 4.65% |
| JST: Actuaries Overall | 4,18 | 4,18 | 0.00% |
| *RY - mining yield | 5,823 | 5,684 | 2.44% |

COMMENTS: The JSE is forced to adopt dual trading capacity to stay competitive and remain in business, should exchange controls be abolished or the banks establish their second exchange as threatened, according to JSE President. The Stock Exchanges Act should be amended, to allow brokers to form limited liability companies. The amendments would also abolish the requirement that brokers be SA citizens. Negotiated commissions, which are to be introduced on deals above R3m. on Oct. 1, would be removed next October. The JSE had also commissioned research, to evaluate screen and automated trading, which would be completed by Sept. 30.

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Mercantile profits drop 44% during first half of the year

NEIL COHEN

PROFITS at Mercantile Discount Bank fell by 44% in the first half of the year to NIS12.9 million from NIS 23.2m. in the same period last year. Second quarter profits were NIS 9.3m. Annualized return on equity for the first half was 7.5%, down sharply from 14.1% in the first half of 1993.

The fall in profitability comes despite increased lending, particularly in the second quarter, up 21.9% over the first half of 1993 and commission revenue up 9.7%.

The bank's profits this year have been hit by higher provisions for doubtful debts, which totaled

NIS 15.1m in the first half; there was an improvement in the second quarter to NIS 5.3m. from first quarter provisions of NIS 9.8m. In the first half of 1993 provisions totaled NIS 3.1m. The bank's profits have also been reduced by the accounting impact of higher inflation.

The bank's adjusted shareholders' equity on June 30 totaled NIS 353.7m. while the total balance sheet stood at NIS 5.68bn. Loans to the public totaled NIS 3.12bn. and deposits by the public NIS 3.69bn. The ratio of equity to total assets was 6.3% while the ratio to risk assets was 13.6%.

Pioneer UAV gets \$20m. DOD contract

NEIL COHEN

PIONEER UAV Inc., a joint venture between Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI) and AAI Corporation of the US, has been awarded a \$20.2 million firm fixed price contract by the US Department of Defense.

The contract is for 20 Pioneer Unmanned Air Vehicles with payloads, nine fuselages and applica-

ble data which will support the Pioneer UAV units of the Army, Navy and Marine Corps by replacing air vehicles lost during operations and training. The Pioneer is the only UAV system in its class in the US inventory and operates on land and on board ships.

Fifty-two percent of the work will be carried out in Israel.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

| Patam (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.8.94) | | | |
|--|----------|----------|-----------|
| Currency (deposit term) | 3 MONTHS | 6 MONTHS | 12 MONTHS |
| U.S. dollar (\$50,000) | 4.12% | 4.37% | 5.00% |
| Swiss franc (SF 200,000) | 3.87% | 4.58% | 5.00% |
| German mark (DM 200,000) | 4.00% | 4.50% | 5.00% |
| Japanese yen (¥100 million) | 3.50% | 3.75% | 3.50% |
| Yen (¥10 million) | 0.75% | 0.75% | 1.125% |
| (Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit) | | | |
| Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (11.8.94) | | | |
| Currency basket | Buy | Sell | Rep. |
| U.S. dollar | 3.3410 | 3.3880 | 3.3650 |
| German mark | 3.0218 | 3.0645 | 3.0440 |
| French franc | 1.9377 | 1.9847 | 1.9610 |
| Japanese yen (100) | 4.8430 | 4.7096 | 1.9514 |
| Swiss franc (100) | 0.5867 | 0.5848 | 0.5857 |
| Dutch guilder | 0.3671 | 0.3657 | 0.3664 |
| Swedish krona | 1.6976 | 1.7216 | 1.7096 |
| Swedish krona (100) | 2.2501 | 2.2821 | 2.2661 |
| Norwegian krone | 0.3825 | 0.3825 | 0.3825 |
| Denmark krone | 0.4420 | 0.4420 | 0.4420 |
| Finland mark | 0.4633 | 0.4602 | 0.4617 |
| Canadian dollar | 0.6904 | 0.6886 | 0.6895 |
| Australian dollar | 2.1908 | 2.2175 | 2.2042 |
| S. African rand | 2.2516 | 2.2894 | 2.2705 |
| Belgian franc (10) | 0.9284 | 0.9478 | 0.9381 |
| Austrian schilling (10) | 0.9284 | 0.9478 | 0.9381 |
| Italian lire (100) | 2.7080 | 2.7472 | 2.7276 |
| Japanese yen (100) | 1.0897 | 1.0925 | 1.0911 |
| Israeli shekel | 1.0000 | 1.0000 | 1.0000 |
| Irish punt | 3.6428 | 3.6943 | 3.6685 |
| Spanish peseta (100) | 4.8644 | 4.8644 | 4.8644 |
| Spanish peseta (100) | 2.3173 | 2.3501 | 2.3337 |

* These rates vary according to bank.

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Guardbank 36,3565 35,6614 1.95%
UAL Gilt 12,2112 12,1393 0.59%
Max Income 10,4259 10,4044 0.21%
Shares: De Beers 119,25 113,00 5.53%
(close) Anglo American 405,00 408,00 -0.74%
Barlows 254,00 253,00 0.40%
SA Brews 35,50 34,00 1.47%
Sasol 88,50 87,75 0.85%
Tiger Oats 33,25 28,25 17.09%
Iscor 45,00 43,00 4.65%
JST: Actuaries Overall 4,18 4,18 0.00%
*RY - mining yield 5,823 5,684 2.44%

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ANDRE LUMBROSO

There were some sharp declines for the Maof securities and the larger companies of the Two-Sided: Elron was down 8.2% after the announcement of the sharp decline in profits; Elbit closed down 5% and Discount Investment down 5%. Bezek declined

The prices rises are reviving the primary market, particularly the new issues: The Barkan Cellars are reportedly contemplating a stock issue. Similarly, Interbeauty is planning a stock issue.

WORLD MARKET BOUNDUP

FRANKFURT - The German DAX share index succumbed to a sharp drop in German debt prices after Sweden raised interest rates yesterday and dealers predicted more losses after late news that Italy also tightened policy.

SYDNEY - The Australian share market tumbled further in afternoon trade to close weaker, after stronger than expected jobs data prompted a sharp selloff in bonds. The All Ordinaries index ended 13.7 points down to 2,062.8.

ses, lower

WALL STREET REPORT

Major stock averages spent the morning posting modest gains, supported by continued strength in technology issues, and the Dow Jones industrial average added seven points.

In another indication that economic growth is moderate, the Commerce Department said retail sales slipped 0.1% in July, held back largely by a drop in automobile purchases. Analysts had expected them to be flat.

A second Labor Department report said the number of Americans seek-

The outstanding 30-year bond traded late in the session down \$8.75 per \$1,000 face value. Its yield, which rises when prices fall, stood at 7.65 percent, up from 7.57% on Wednesday.

Bonds began their descent after the

Big Board volume totaled 275.68 million shares as of 2000 GMT, against 279.5 million in the previous session.

CURRENCY

CROSS-RATES

| | | |
|----------|-----------|----------|
| STERLING | 2.4124/34 | - |
| YEN | 1.5562/82 | 0.8452/5 |
| SFr | 1.1681/91 | 0.4823/2 |

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 154.80/95 | 2.1259/12 | 3.2171/93 |
| — | 1.3087/11 | 5.3392/68 |
| 78.23/34 | — | 4.0744/04 |

Multi-sided trading

| | | | | AFTERNOON | | | | MORNING | | | |
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SOURCE: ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICE

[illegible]

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

| | MARK | STERLING | YEN | SFr | FFr |
|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| MARK | — | 0.142/46 | 64.19/22 | 0.8412/15 | 3.4301/08 |
| STERLING | 2.1412/54 | — | 154.88/96 | 2.0289/12 | 8.2707/38 |
| YEN | 1.5568/82 | 0.1452/57 | — | 1.3097/11 | 5.3992/96 |
| SFr | 1.1681/81 | 0.4823/29 | 78.29/34 | — | 4.7744/04 |
| FFr | 0.2819/17 | 0.1207/09 | 16.09/14 | 0.2451/54 | — |

Prices from 22:30 local time

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CENTRAL RAANANA, roof apartment, 4, quiet, parking, \$228,000, Holland Real Estate, ☎ 03-5543080.

RAANANA, good location, 4 and 5 room apartments. Immediate No agents. Tel. 03-914511.

5 ROOMS, spacious, many improvements, parking, on Barry St. Netanya, not Shabbat. ☎ 03-346896, Eve. ☎ 03-5893011

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IMMEDIATE AU PAIR for family, live-in only ☎ 03-582387

LIVE-OUT for nice family in Herzlia, 2 girls, 8:30-17:30. ☎ 03-504763

AU PAIR, housekeeping (cleaning and cooking), large house, recommendations a must. ☎ 03-585035.

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LIVE-IN AU PAIR, for baby, Herzlia Hatzira, experience + references. Tel. 03-552474, ☎ 03-584242.

LOYAL, ENTHUSIASTIC, AU PAIR needed for cleaning for warm family. ☎ 03-686261, ☎ 050-214286.

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Dominican Republic to move embassy to J'lem

DAVID MAKOVSKY

THE Dominican Republic informed a senior Israeli diplomat yesterday that the country will move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, a senior Foreign Ministry official said last night.

In so doing, the Dominican Republic will be the third country after Costa Rica and El Salvador to locate its embassy in Jerusalem.

Officials refused to elaborate on the announcement by the Dominican Republic.

However, it is known that the move was made in context with Israel's intention to close four of its embassies in Central and Latin America as a cost-cutting measure.

Dov Shmorak, Foreign Ministry assistant director-general for Latin American affairs, is currently in Santo Domingo as part of a mission

to inform the Dominican Republic, Honduras, Bolivia, and Paraguay that Israel would cancel plans to close down its embassies in their countries if they moved their embassies from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Bolivia recently suggested moving its embassy from Tel Aviv to Mevasseret, but Israel has insisted that the embassy be moved to inside the municipal boundaries of Jerusalem.

7 wounded in Burundi grenade attack

BUJUMBURA (Reuters) - At least seven people were wounded in Burundi's capital Bujumbura yesterday when a grenade was hurled into the main market, raising fears that the central African country will follow Rwanda into ethnic conflict.

The attack took place at noon despite a heavy military presence on the streets of Bujumbura to quell ethnic unrest and strikes. It was not known who threw the grenade.

Witnesses said the explosion blew holes in the market's roof and there were pools of blood on the floor among the wooden stalls. The incident further raised an already charged political atmosphere.

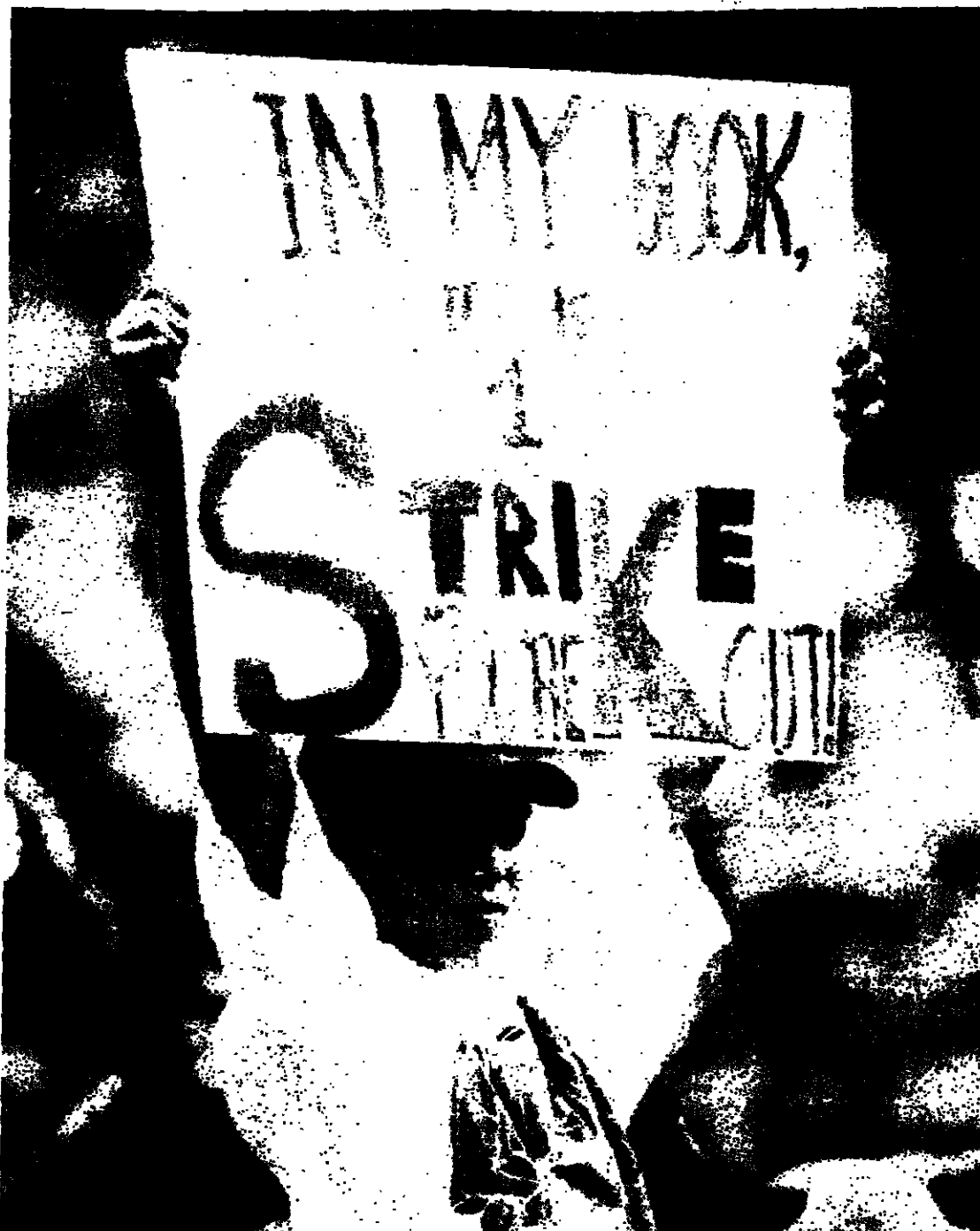
The army quickly moved to head off further attacks and sealed off a northern suburb of Ngazwa, a mainly Tutsi neighborhood where armed opposition roam.

Diplomats said Burundi was on the verge of the kind of ethnic bloodbath seen in its northern neighbor Rwanda where aid workers say

Williams hits 43rd homer; Bagwell out 3-5 weeks

Baseball strike looks inevitable

ROSS NEWMAN
NEW YORK



UNHAPPY FAN - A boy, who attended a baseball game in Denver Stadium Wednesday, carries a message for the Rockies and Braves.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

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CHICAGO (AP) - Matt Williams, his

chase of Roger Maris' home run record threatened by the impending strike, hit No. 43 and added a two-run double Wednesday as the San Francisco Giants beat the Chicago Cubs 5-2.

Williams, in a 1-for-12 slump, drove a pitch from Willie Banks (8-12) over the wall in right-center leading off the second.

William VanLandingham (8-2) won his fifth decision in six outings. He went six innings, giving up eight hits with two strikeouts and two walks.

Rod Beck finished for his 28th save this season and his 40th in a row dating to last August 15, when he blew a save against the Cubs.

ATLANTA (AP) - Kevin Ritz and Steve Reed combined

to shut out Atlanta through six innings and Colorado earned its first home win over the Braves in a game called after six innings.

Dane Bichette's double brought in the only run of the game, which was called after a 1-hour, 25-minute delay.

The win was the first ever for the Rockies over Atlanta at Mile High Stadium after 11 straight losses. Atlanta leads the all-time series 20-2.

Despite struggling, Ritz (5-6) blanked Atlanta for five innings, allowing six hits with five walks and six strikeouts.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Orlando 8, Yankees 1

Rafael Palmeiro drove in five runs with four hits to back the pitching of Ben McDonald as the visiting Orioles routed Jimmy Key.

Palmeiro had two singles, a two-run double and a three-run homer while McDonald (14-7) held New York to five hits. He struck out two and didn't walk a batter in 7 1/2 innings before leaving with a mild cramp in his right forearm.

Key (17-4) allowed 10 hits, four runs, one walk and struck out five in seven innings.

New York has lost four of its last five games, but leads the Orioles by seven games in the AL East.

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Croatian hoopsters down Canada

Mansdorf beats Korda in ATP Championship

Take me out to what ball game?

TORONTO (AP) - Dino Radja scored 25 points and Toni Kukoc had 15 points and 12 assists as Croatia clinched a semifinal berth in the World Championship of Basketball with a 92-61 victory over Canada on Wednesday night.

The loss, combined with Greece's 77-61 victory over China on Wednesday night, eliminated Canada (0-2), the first North American country to host the tournament, from medal contention.

Radja, who plays for the Boston Celtics, dominated inside early, making nine of 10 shots in the first half and scored 19 points as Croatia (2-0) took a 45-30 halftime lead.

Kukoc, who plays for the Chicago Bulls, broke down the Canadian defense over and over again whether in the open court or in a halfcourt situation. Kukoc took full advantage of the size difference between him and the Canadian guards.

Slojan Vrankovic, who played for the Celtics, added seven points, 15 rebounds and five blocked shots for Croatia.

Rick Fox, Radja's teammate on the Celtics, led Canada with 19 points.

Fox kept Canada in the game early, scoring 13 of its first 19 points. Canada trailed 29-24 with seven minutes left in the half and was held to six points the rest of the half, four by Fox in the final 37 seconds.

Croatia kept Canada scoreless on six straight possessions to start the second half. Radja and Arjan Komasec each had five points in the run.

Canada made one run in the second half, cutting the lead to 52-31 at 3:49 in, but Kukoc had assists on five of Cro-



ON THE ATTACK - Croatia's Toni Kukoc tries to go around Canadian Rick Fox.

MASON, Ohio (AP) - Amos Mansdorf beat 10th-seeded Petr Korda of the Czech Republic 6-3, 6-3 Wednesday night in a second-round match in the \$1.72 million ATP Championship.

Mansdorf was scheduled to face Boris Becker in yesterday's third-round match.

Becker needed a first-set tiebreaker to get used to the hardcourt, then put away Cristiano Caratti of Italy, 7-6 (10-8), 6-3.

Thomas Enqvist of Sweden beat No. 11 Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia 3-6, 7-5, 6-3.

"I started off badly," said Becker, seeded eighth. "The court was so fast, the ball was almost skidding. It took me about 25 minutes to get used to it."

In an earlier match, top-seeded Sergi Bruguera needed three sets to beat Russian Andrei Cherkasov 6-1, 2-6, 6-1. The Spanish clay specialist, a three-time winner on that surface this year, inherited the top seeding when No. 1-ranked Pete Sampras withdrew late last week because of tendinitis in his ankle.

"I have more confidence on hardcourts now," said Bruguera, whose first match on the surface was in 1989 US Open. "The only way I can improve is to play a lot of matches."

Second-seeded Stefan Edberg of Sweden eliminated countryman Henrik Holm 6-3, 6-2, averaging a loss to Holm in the first round of the French Open earlier this year.

"I had lost my serve for awhile, but I'm serving well again," Edberg said. "What I really need to do is

focus on keeping my serve going. If I'm serving well, I can compete with anybody."

Ivan Lendl, another one-time No. 1 who flashed some of his old form Monday, complained of a sore back and withdrew in the second set of Wednesday's match with David Wheaton. Wheaton had won the first set 7-6 (7-5), and was leading 2-0 in the second when Lendl, 34, left the court.

Lendl won the ATP Championship in 1982, the year he won 15 tournaments. He was the top-ranked player in the world for 157 weeks from September 1985 to September 1988, and is the tour's career earnings leader with more than \$20 million.

Jason Stoltenberg, unseeded but playing well lately, ousted fifth-seeded Andrei Medvedev 7-6 (7-5), 6-2. Stoltenberg underwent shoulder surgery a year ago but has come back stronger than ever and is 22nd in the rankings, a career high for him.

Stoltenberg, 24, of Australia, is the hottest player on the ATP tour, winning 16 of 19 matches in the past four weeks. It was the first hardcourt match of the year for Medvedev, of Ukraine.

"I was very tired. I flew from Germany on Monday afternoon," Medvedev said. "I think today he was better, the better player for the day."

Eight of the tournament's 16 seeds have advanced. Yesterday's only scheduled match between seeded players is defending champion Michael Chang (4) vs. Cedric Pioline (13).

OPINION/ JOE HOFFMAN

THIS may be the last time to write about the major league baseball season. After a likely season-ending strike starts today, we'll have to content ourselves with Michael Jordan's sub-.200 batting average and whether the Birmingham Barons - or the Toledo Mudhens - are gonna go all the way.

What a shame, too. There hasn't been this much excitement in decades. A bevy of top-flight sluggers duking it out for the hitting honors. With all the talent, it's a throwback to the early '60s when Mantle, Maris, Mays, Clemente and Aaron ruled the world.

Just look at the stats: Three contenders for the Triple Crown: Frank Thomas and Albert Belle in the American League and Jeff Bagwell in the National.

Thomas of Chicago, "The Big Hurt" as the Comiskey Park faithful call him, leads the AL in runs, is second in homers and third in batting and RBIs. Another up-and-comer,

Cleveland's Belle, is second in batting, third in home runs and fourth in RBIs. Toss in Griffey, O'Neill and Lofgren for flavor, and that AL stew is something to be savored.

In the NL, there's Tony Gwynn at an incredible .391 clip with the most hits. Bagwell of Houston is tops in RBIs and runs scored, and second in home runs and batting average. And the most surprising of all is San Francisco's Matt Williams with 43 four-baggers. That's the number the Babe had going into September, 1927.

There is so much to be lost, and it looks like both sides are intent on losing it. Everybody says the real losers will be the fans, but whoever gave a damn about us?

So get set for Birmingham's run for the pennant and Jordan's assault on the 200 barrier. Maybe he'll announce he's going back to the Bulls, and we can all put on our basketball faces early and wish the commissioner-less baseball moguls a nice long off-season.

Ex-Yugoslav national player Zarko Paspalj signs with Panathinaikos

ATHENS (AP) - Zarko Paspalj, who played with the former Yugoslav national basketball team, has signed with Panathinaikos of Athens, the club announced yesterday.

Panathinaikos did not specify the financial terms involved, but press reports said that Paspalj's one-year contract will cost the club 35 million drachmas (\$1.4 million).

The 28-year-old Montenegrin forward played with Panathinaikos' arch-rival Olympiakos Piraeus for the past three years. Last season Olympiakos won both the championship and the Greek Cup, and finished 2nd in the European Championship, losing to Spain's Barcelona in the final.

"I joined the team which offered me the most money," Paspalj told reporters.

In his new team, the 2.07 meters player joins Greek-American star guard Nikos Galis, national team captain Panagiotis Giannakis and Croatian center Stoyan Vrankovic.

Chargers have their work cut out for them

BERLIN (AP) - Hard hitting on a wet field with the rain pouring down.

A football traditionalist would have loved it. For a head coach used to practicing in southern California, it was something different.

"I'm soaking wet," said the San Diego Chargers, clutching a towel to his face as he came off the practice field.

Don't have anything to change into.

Ross, perhaps spoiled by the California-like weather conditions of his team's first three days in Europe, was experiencing an old fashioned European thunderstorm which threatened to cut short the team's head-to-head practice with the New York Giants.

"We don't get a lot of this," Ross said. "I normally self checking the clouds like I don't normally. There were three bolts (of lightning). We were very close to (stopping practice)."

The Chargers' general manager Bobby Beathard, not wanting to ruin a new pair of tennis shoes, watched practice barefooted. The players, however, weren't holding much back as they prepared for

tomorrow night's American Bowl at the Olympic Stadium.

"What we were looking at was some physical stuff," Ross said. "I like that. They worked well us and we worked well with them. No fights. Overall, I think we got a lot done."

Ross needs to get a lot done in a hurry. The Chargers are playing one of the quirkier preseason schedules in NFL history, and it doesn't help that they started 0-2.

"There's not a whole lot we can do about it," Ross said. "We've just got to play the schedule we've been dealt and try to get better."

Tomorrow marks the Chargers' third consecutive game on neutral turf. They lost 21-17 to Atlanta in the Hall of Fame game in Canton, Ohio, then were made to pay for five turnovers in a 31-3 rout by Houston in San Antonio last weekend.

Following the game against the Giants, there will be precious little time for the Chargers to recover from trans-Atlantic jet lag before entertaining San Francisco next Thursday and the Los Angeles Rams one week later.

"We have three games in 12 days," Ross said. "Our preseason ends rather rapidly, so we need to start to get a little bit more precise and a little bit

more exact as far as things that we're trying to get accomplished."

"We've probably got more miles on our planes than anyone else in the National Football League. We've been on the road now for quite a bit of time. And we're probably anxious to get back."

Ross is still undecided on his player rotation for tomorrow. Despite the slow start, he said there's no pressure to win.

"The W's have to come in the regular season," Ross said. "We would like to win, and I think it would make the trip a lot shorter if we did, but we're not going to take any foolish chances to try to go out and win the game."

Head coach Dan Reeves is maintaining the same philosophy with the winless Giants, who have lost to Miami and Cleveland.

"Winning is important anytime you go out onto the field, but I don't think you can do it at the expense of not evaluating your players," Reeves said. "We have a plan going in, and regardless of what the score is, we stick with that plan."

Part of Reeves' plan is the ongoing development of the Giants' shift in defensive alignment from the 3-4 to the 4-3. The strategy calls for five players to split time in the four positions on the line.

Krasnov vaults to sixth place

JOEL GORDIN

ISRAELI pole-vaulter Yevgeny "Danny" Krasnov exceeded most expectations by coming in sixth in the finals at the European Athletics Championships in Helsinki yesterday.

He equaled his national record of 5.70 meters. Krasnov only started the contest at 5.60 meters, obviously hoping to conserve strength in the windy conditions. He succeeded on the third attempt. He cleared 5.70 meters on the first try, equaling the national record he set in June in Luxembourg. He failed all three tries at 5.80 meters. On his first attempt he went under the bar. During the next two he soared over, but his rear touched the bar and toppled it down.

Discus thrower Sergei Lukashuk will go into action in the heats of his event today, and Dov Cremer runs the marathon on Sunday.

TODAY ON CABLE TV

- CHANNEL 5**
8.30 Bodies in motion 10.00 Australian football 10.45 American games 12.15 Argentinean league soccer 13.30 Replay 14.30 Bodies in motion 15.00 WWF 16.00 Bushido 17.00 Mondial 17.30 European soccer magazine 18.30 Soccer special: the coming Charity Cup match between Man Utd. and Blackburn Rovers 20.00 (to be announced) 21.15 Superstars 22.00 American games 23.00 Indy 500 00.00 European soccer magazine
- PRIME SPORTS**
6.30 World of rugby 7.00 Badminton 11.00 Wundersurfing 11.30 Baseball 12.00 WWF 13.00 Asian soccer show 14.00 International sports magazine 14.30 NBA behind the scenes 15.00 Live Indonesian Open badminton 16.00 Live golf from Oklahoma 1.00 Indonesian Open badminton
- SATURDAY AUGUST 13**
- CHANNEL 5**
10.00 Table tennis 11.00 Mondial 11.30 European soccer magazine 12.30 Rugby 14.00 Bodies in motion 15.00 WWF 16.00 Bushido 17.00 Mondial 17.30 European soccer magazine 18.30 Soccer special: the coming Charity Cup match between Man Utd. and Blackburn Rovers 20.00 (to be announced) 21.30 Snooker 22.30 Bushido 23.30 Bodies
- PRIME SPORTS**
6.00 Golf from Oklahoma 8.00 International sports magazine 8.30 NBA behind the scenes 9.00 Asian soccer show 10.00 Live Indonesian Open badminton 11.00 European soccer show 15.00 WWF 16.00 International sports magazine 17.00 Mondial 18.00 Sports magazine: bowling 20.00 Asian soccer show 20.30 Live golf from Oklahoma 1.00 Indonesian Open badminton

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- The Middle East page, brings you an Arab news digest, articles on and by Israel's neighbors.

ON THURSDAYS:

- The Post's "agony aunt" Ruth Blum answers readers' questions.
- Intelligence experts Uri Dan and Dennis Eisenberg give you inside stories of international intrigue.

IDF staff colleges get new head

BRIG-GEN. Yitzhak Brik will today be promoted to the rank of major-general and be appointed commander of the IDF National Defense College and the Command and Staff College. Brik will replace retiring Maj.-Gen. Yossi Ben-Hanan.

Court postpones decision on whether Deri's lawyers can resign

EVELYN GORDON
and Tim

THE Jerusalem District Court is to decide in the next few days whether to permit former interior minister Aryeh Deri's lawyers to resign.

Judges Ya'acov Zerah, Miriam Naor, and Moussa Arad were supposed to give their decision last night, following a day-long hearing, but announced at about 6:30 p.m. that they were not yet able to do so. Instead, the decision will be sent in writing to all concerned parties when it is ready.

Deri's lawyers, Dan Avi-Yitzhak and Amnon Zichroni, resigned Sunday after the court refused to change its decision to conduct the trial five days a week. The lawyers said they could not handle such a load.

Deri, who missed the first part of the hearing because his wife had just given birth, made an impassioned plea to the judges to reduce the trial schedule to three days a week, accusing them of "setting precedents on his back" by the five-day schedule.

"As a public official, I have already been punished," he said, referring to the four-year investigation and the High Court of Justice's decision that he could not serve as a minister.

"The decision [to hold hearings] five days a week, with or without an attorney, is a continuation of the punishment, because I won't be able to exist — not just as a minister, but even as an MK or a party leader."

"Because we are talking about my life here, I ask you, the judges, the make an effort [to allow me legal representation]," he continued. "The distance isn't great. My lawyers are willing to make a great effort if the hearings are limited to three times a week ... Even if the trial takes a few



MK Aryeh Deri's attorneys Dan Avi-Yitzhak (left) and Amnon Zichroni appear at yesterday's hearing at Tel Aviv District Court.

months longer because of the reduction in the number of hearings per week, we still won't be talking about a trial without end."

If the court sticks to its decision, however, he said he would rather represent himself than take a court-appointed lawyer. Six major law firms have refused to take his case, he said, and he does not want a lawyer

who is being forced to do the job. Avi-Yitzhak argued that the court has no right to overrule his resignation, because his contract with Deri was explicitly limited to the preliminary hearings and the response to the indictment. That the lawyers had not definitely agreed to take the case was repeated at every hearing and in every document submitted to the court, he

said, so no one, including the court, can claim not to have been aware of this possibility.

"An attorney's right ... not to represent a client is a fundamental right" in which the court has no right to be involved, he said. Only after a lawyer has agreed to represent a client does the court have the right to force him to continue to do so.

If the court were to interpret a limited contract such as that signed with Deri as a binding commitment for a whole trial, attorneys will stop being willing to give any services at all to defendants in complicated cases, for fear of being stuck with the whole case, he warned.

Avi-Yitzhak said he also has personal reasons, which were heard behind closed doors, for finding a five-day-a-week schedule intolerable. In addition, he said, because of Deri's financial problems, they had not been able to agree on legal fees should he continue with the trial.

Avi-Yitzhak added that he could not have definitely decided not to take the case before now, because until he examined the material, he had thought a five-day-a-week schedule might be feasible.

Bar Association chairman Dror Hoter-Ishai, who asked to speak at the hearing because the issue is so important to the profession, strongly supported Deri's lawyers.

"When lawyers on burdensome cases such as this one reach the conclusion that they can't [fulfill their obligation] under the conditions which have been set, they must be taken seriously," he said.

"Legal work isn't slavery," he added, stressing that attorneys must have the right to limit their job — as Deri's lawyers did — with the client's consent.

However, lead prosecutor Yehoshua Resnick disagreed. Once a lawyer starts a job, he said, he must finish it. Furthermore, he said, Deri could not represent himself, because the trial would involve many difficult legal issues for which Deri does not have the training.

MKs: Treasury should focus on fighting inflation

EVELYN GORDON

FIGHTING inflation must be a major focus of the Treasury's budgetary policy, several members of the Knesset Finance Committee said yesterday.

Committee chairman Gedalya Gal (Labor) said that getting inflation below 10% must be a top priority.

"All [budgetary] policy must derive from this [goal]," he said. One suggestion for reducing expenses, he added, was to cut the proposed union tax, meant to keep the Histadrut alive, from the suggested figure of 0.8%. This figure is excessive, he said; the amount needed to keep a workers' organization alive is far less.

Silvan Shalom (Likud) said that fighting inflation would be impossible with a proposed budget deficit of 2.75%, down only slightly from this year's 3%. According to a 1992 law, he noted, the deficit was supposed to have been

2.2% this year and only 1% next year.

"If [the government] had achieved this goal, inflation would have gone down," he said.

However, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat charged that the main threat to the deficit is the Knesset. The 1993 budget includes some NIS 600 million which is the direct result of legislation passed over the past year, he said, and legislation now in the pipeline. If all of it were actually approved, would cost another NIS 5 billion.

Most of the MKs said they supported the Treasury's efforts to prevent any growth in the defense budget, in order to prevent any growth in the overall budget, and consequent growth in the deficit.

"If there is any growth in the defense budget, it must come at the expense of other

items," warned State Budget Director David Brodet.

If the deficit is increased, Brodet said, it will throttle growth.

Several MKs also attacked the budget for not doing enough to help the needy.

Benny Temkin (Meretz) charged that the government is misleading the public by claiming that social welfare spending had increased dramatically. It is true that such spending is slated to constitute 34% of the 1995 budget, compared with 18% of the budget in 1986, he said, but almost all of the growth has come in education — which in most countries, is not included under welfare spending. "Pure" welfare spending, he said, might even have declined.

In contrast, Dan Tichon (Likud) said the budget dedicated too much money to welfare.

Shohat, who presented the budget to the committee, said that its main points were a planned NIS 1.6b. in tax cuts and the approximately NIS 2.5b. set aside to cover various crises. Most of the "crisis" money will go towards rescuing Israel Aircraft Industries, Ta'as and Rafael, but Kupat Holim, the kibbutzim and moshavim, and the local authorities will also need help, he said.

Most of the tax cuts, Shohat said, will be aimed at lowering the cost of labor — primarily by reducing employer contributions to the National Insurance Institute and purchase taxes. Because of this, Tichon charged, the average taxpayer will actually be paying more taxes come January 1, thanks to the new health insurance tax and the planned union tax. This, he said, hardly constitutes tax reform.

Second kibbutz bailout proposal presented

JOSE ROSENFELD and EVELYN GORDON

A PROPOSAL for a second kibbutz debt arrangement, aimed at rescuing the kibbutzim from the remaining NIS 5.7 billion they owe the banks, was presented last night to Finance Minister Avraham Shohat by a committee headed by accounting expert Yitzhak Swary.

The supplementary arrangement takes into account, on the one hand, that the financial situation of the kibbutzim has worsened since the first debt arrangement in 1989, and, on the other, the increase in the value of their land holdings.

The proposed arrangement deals with the financial situation of 102 kibbutzim which are unable to meet their obligations and whose problems were not solved by the first arrangement.

The arrangement would reschedule the debts of 70 kibbutzim to enable them to continue their economic activity. The remaining 32 kibbutzim are in worse shape and do not have the capability to pay back their debts. As a result, rescheduling would not

be enough, and they will be required to go through a transitional rehabilitation period.

During that time, the 32 kibbutzim will receive financial and managerial assistance from a special investment fund to help them achieve economic viability. Should they achieve it within a four-year transition period, they will also be entitled to the terms of the proposed financial arrangement.

The committee also recommends that the current organizational structure of the kibbutz movement be changed, so that instead of having the fiscal responsibility fall on the movement as a whole, it will apply to the individual kibbutzim.

Under the arrangement, all of the

parties — the government, the banks, and the kibbutzim — will have to contribute to the resolution of the financial crisis. Treasury budget director David Brodet said the government will pay a quarter of the total debt, amounting to NIS 1.425 billion, with the remainder to be split between the banks and the kibbutzim.

Knesset Finance Committee chairman Gedalya Gal (Labor) said yesterday the government should let the kibbutzim and the banks find a way to solve the kibbutzim's debt problem by themselves, rather than trying to force an arrangement on them.

Speaking at a Finance Committee meeting, Gal, a leading member of the agricultural lobby, said the gov-

ernment has been trying to solve the kibbutz debt problem since 1982 without success. One major reason for this failure, he said, has been the government's involvement in the issue in the first place.

The kibbutzim must reach an arrangement with the banks themselves, he said, though the government should be willing to contribute a certain amount of money if necessary.

Gal also said that any solution to the crisis should deal with the problems of individual families, rather than merely offering a solution at the sectoral level.

Fruit, vegetable prices fall

FRUIT and vegetable prices began to drop last week, as a result of the influx of produce from the Gaza Strip and from an increased harvest, the Agriculture Ministry announced yesterday.

The drop comes after increases of as much as 100 percent in vegetable prices in July. Fruit prices were also much higher last month, compared with last summer, due to a poor harvest, the ministry said.

Agriculture Ministry marketing department head Nuriel Sarim said that a kilogram of cucumbers at the wholesale market had dropped from NIS 3 to NIS 1.7, while the price of

greenhouse tomatoes had dropped from NIS 4 to NIS 3 a kilo.

At the same time, the wholesale price of a kilo of squash remains at NIS 3.50 and NIS 5 for the consumer.

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'Peace? Now?' Public adjusts to good news

Everybody hoped for peace with Jordan. All people have to do now is get used to it.
Allison Kaplan Sommer reports

THE images have been coming at us rapidly and relentlessly. Just as we started absorbing the reality of having Yasser Arafat as a next-door neighbor, the daily barrage of television pictures in the "Peace with Jordan" miniseries hit.

There they were, like old friends: Yitzhak Rabin and King Hussein on the White House lawn; Hussein swooping over Tel Aviv in his jet chatting with Rabin by radio; the prime minister wishing the king a safe landing in Amman; Rabin relaxing at the royal palace in Akaba, and cruising on the king's yacht wearing a baseball cap; Prince Hassan blessing Rabin in Hebrew after snipping the ribbon to the new border crossing between Akaba and Eilat.

It has been almost too much for the average citizen to absorb. In a reality office in North Tel Aviv early this week, the radio was on all day as real-estate agents Ron Lev and Sefton Grant tried to keep up with current events while they helped their customers buy, sell and rent apartments.

"It's surreal, almost like you're dreaming it," Grant said. As clients drifted in and out of the office, he remarked: "Some of them comment on what is going on, but most are too concerned with their own problems to pay too much attention."

Israelis have been accused in the past of suffering from "paxophobia," or at least of being so used to war and strife that the idea of peace is unfathomable and rejected out of hand. But with "historic moments" coming almost daily, movement toward peace has become, well, almost routine.

The conclusion that psychologist Dr. Robert Chernick has reached is that the reality of what has happened hasn't quite sunk in yet. "I don't think people have really internalized the significance of these changes. Soon they'll realize that walls are tumbling down."

Efraim Inbar, a professor of political science and the director of BESA, the Center for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University, observed that Egypt's Anwar Sadat paved the psychological road which Arafat and Hussein are currently walking down.

"What Sadat did was unparalleled and unprecedented," said Inbar. "There was much greater suspense at the time, and it was very different. Now, to a great extent, it's déjà vu."

And, he added, after the stunning scenes of Rabin and Arafat shaking hands, watching Rabin with Hussein was less of a shock.

"I used to be a concertgoer, and Isra-

lis are very choosy about whom they make a fuss. If you don't bring the biggest star, nobody comes. Arafat, everybody watched. Hussein feels like the second time around. It seems to me these photo opportunities are needed much more by the other side. Hussein had to illustrate what was happening for his people."

Polls that Inbar conducted after the Rabin-Arafat White House ceremony showed a great desire among Israelis for the peace attempts to succeed, coupled with an equal amount of skepticism and suspicion.

"Hussein learned a lesson from Sadat in gaining the confidence of the Israeli public, and he's done Sadat even better, I believe," Chernick said. "The king is by nature a warmer person than Sadat; you can see it in his body language. I also think that maybe because he is short, he is less intimidating. Yasser Arafat projects none of this warmth. He is always upright and always tries to maintain his strength. King Hussein could walk around in an army uniform all of the time, too, but he doesn't."

One basic reason why the nation is not gripped by current events, Inbar commented, is that the peace process is no longer required evening viewing. "Don't forget that in 1977 [the year Sadat visited Jerusalem] there was one TV channel. Now we have many, and the public is fragmented among these channels. People who are more interested in sports than politics, watch only sports. The variety of levels of interest and opinions is much more diverse because of this."

AND THEN you have the annual summer slowdown and vacations. Some 30,000 Israelis are frolicking in Turkey at the moment.

If he was going for maximum impact on Israelis, "Hussein chose the wrong month," suggested public-relations man David Weinberg. "Nobody is here; half the nation is out of the country. If he wanted to sell himself to Israeli public opinion, he should have waited until September and the holidays, when everyone is watching television."

But even if the timing were better, people might still find peace tough to get used to. Jordanian and Israeli leaders have had an ongoing relationship for decades, but their citizens are total strangers.

"I heard the telephone conversation between Rabin and Hussein and Weizman and Hussein. There seems to be a



With historic moments occurring on a daily basis, movement toward peace has become almost routine. (IDF Spokesman)

love affair," Chernick said. "It seems out of character for some of these political officials we know so well to be bending over backwards in trying to please [the Jordanians]. Over the years, Hussein apparently has succeeded in pulling the right strings and hitting the right chords."

"It's going to take people time to get used to this. We don't have this background of 20 years of relations. That makes it harder for us to acclimate to this than for [the leaders]."

The new relationship with Jordan may seem more real when King Hussein visits Yad Vashem and Queen Noor shops on

Dizengoff. But it will really only sink in, the experts say, when the speeches and the ceremonies are translated into the reality of everyday life.

"That will happen when people see that they can take vacations in Akaba paying half the price of Eilat," Chernick said. "When they can go to Petra as easily as to Masada, when it really feels like the country next door."

Akaba-Eilat: Package in the making

The two Red Sea towns will compete for visitors, but peace will increase the pool of tourists for both, Haim Shapiro writes

THE opening of the border with Jordan has an importance for tourism that goes far beyond the few thousand tourists who cross the border between the two countries, according to Tourism Minister Uzi Baram.

Asked this week how he thought the agreement would affect tourism to Israel, Baram said that this one event could change Israel's image in the world, from a country of war to a country of peace. How is it he asks, that with all its attractions, Israel has never been able to break the barrier of two million tourists a year.

"It has beaches and antiquities, and it is the source of the three monotheistic religions, but there has always been the fear of war, even when there was complete peace," Baram says.

The additional tourists who come may not necessarily go to Jordan, or even Eilat, he says. At the same time, he adds, there is no doubt that tour organizers will now start to market the two destinations together, thus making it possible to reach a market segment which might not have come to Israel previously.

The tours, he says, could be for nine days, including two days in Jordan and possibly time in Egypt.

In fact, the tours to Israel, Jordan and Egypt have been operating since 1990, according to Oni Amiel, of Amiel Tours, one of the leading organizers of incoming tourism. What is new, of course, is that now there is a land crossing and the tourists do not have to go through the complicated rigmarole of going by ferry from Nueiba to Akaba.

Amiel says that the company is not yet bringing groups through the new terminal, for fear that last-minute kinks might cause some unfortunate visitor to have to wait in the sun for two or three hours, but it is planning to bring the groups through in a week to 10 days when such matters as opening hours and border crossing fees are all settled.

The Jordan option would be available not only for specially organized tours, but for other groups coming to Israel. For example, he said, his company is very active in bringing groups from Europe for therapy at the Dead Sea.

It would be hard, Amiel says, to estimate exactly how much business the Jordanian option will generate, especially in view of the fact that the company has seen a steady increase in incoming tourism of about 30 percent since January, despite the Hebron massacre.

Amiel admits that hotels in Israel could lose some business because tourists including Jordan in their itinerary might spend a few nights less in Israel, especially in the long term.

"The compensation will be in volume," he says, insisting that even if some tourists stay a shorter time, there

will be far more tourists visiting the country.

Baram says that in the short term, it may well be that Israel as a whole will gain from the peace, but Eilat will lose. There are, he notes, about 1.8 million tourists who come to Israel, without Eilat, while about 120,000 come to Eilat as the main destination.

Prices are lower in Akaba, he says, and as a result of the peace treaty, the availability of accommodation in Akaba could mean a drop in prices in Eilat during the low season. This would not happen during the high season, he says, simply because Akaba has only some 1,000 hotel rooms, compared to 4,500 hotel rooms in Eilat.

Generally, those active in tourism in Israel agree that for the moment, Akaba poses very little competition for Eilat. There are few hotels in the Jordanian town and the hotels which do exist are not on the seashore, but in town. Although prices there are low, there are few amenities. The beach itself is rocky, with little area suitable for sunbathing.

Eilat municipal spokeswoman Michal Meir-Sarar says that the Israeli Red Sea resort only welcomes the opening of the border. She points out that of 35,000 residents in Eilat, 60 to 70 percent derive their livelihood directly or indirectly from tourism. It is, she adds, a very unstable industry, and the worst thing that can happen to tourism is conflict.

"If there is peace with Jordan, there can be no chance of war," she says.

Another factor that could help Eilat, she says, would be Jordanian agreement to joint use of Akaba's airport. At the present, the small Eilat airfield obstructs development in the center of the town and large planes cannot land there. Instead, they land at the Uvda airbase, which is 45 minutes from the city.

Ideally, she says, Akaba's airport could be similar to Geneva's, which serves passengers bound for France and Switzerland.

As for the possibility of competition between Eilat and Akaba, she says that people in the town are not worried.

Baram says some tourists coming to Eilat may choose to spend a day or two of their vacation in Jordan.

However, in the more distant future, he sees both Eilat and Akaba as part of a resort area that would include Nueiba, with marinas at all three, where wealthy tourists could come with their yachts for the season. For this, he said, Akaba still has a long way to go in developing its tourist attractions.

As for the crossing with Jordan in the Arava, which is now open only to citizens of third countries, Baram says he is convinced that financial considerations will cause it to be opened for Israelis and Jordanians in the very near future.

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No. 1 woman in Gaza fights a new battle

Palestinians expect a lot of Intisar Wazir, the official in charge of social affairs, Judith Colp Rubin reports

SINCE she arrived in Gaza a month and a half ago, Intisar Wazir has had little rest. Beginning every day at 7 a.m. in her home, continuing throughout her workday in her office, and at night after she returns home, she receives calls and visits from needy Gazans.

Some are handicapped. Others lost fathers or sons in the intifada. Wazir, responsible for social affairs on the Palestinian Authority, listens and tells them that there simply is no money now, but that she expects the situation to change soon.

Palestinians have great expectations, and place a great deal of reliance on her to deliver. Much of this has to do with her background.

She is the person charged with helping the families of martyrs, and she herself is the widow of the most prominent martyr in the Palestinian gallery. The 52-year-old native Gazan was married to PLO leader Khalil al-Wazir, better known by his nom de guerre Abu Jihad (father of holy war).

Abu Jihad was responsible for planning terrorist attacks against Israelis during the 1970s and 1980s. In 1988, he was slain, reportedly by Israeli commandos, in his Tunis home while his wife and two of their children looked on.

A founder of Fatah, an architect of the intifada and a favorite of Arafat, Abu Jihad has had a reputation of near-mythic proportions since his death. His mustache was plastered throughout Gaza and the West Bank.

His legacy is so strong that, when Intisar Wazir — known to most as Um Jihad (Mother of the Holy War) — arrived in Gaza from Tunis, rumor had it that her husband was still alive and on his way too. Hundreds came to her house to check if it was true.

ASKED WHETHER her male colleagues on the authority treat her as inferior because she is a woman, Wazir laughs.

"They can't do that," she says. "They know me very well. I was there from the beginning with the work of our people and with the revolution."

In fact, well before she married, Wazir devoted herself to the Palestinian cause.

She was the first woman to join the Palestinian nationalist group that later became Fatah, in 1956. Ten years later, she acted as temporary commander of the Fatah movement while her husband and Arafat were imprisoned. In 1989, she became the first woman named to the 21-member Fatah Central Committee, on which she remains active.

She has used her position to push for women's rights since becoming a founder of the first Palestinian women's union 40 years ago.

She believes her achievements prompted Arafat to appoint her to the 20-member governing authority, where she is the only woman.

Several months ago, some officials wanted to fire Gaza's only female judge simply because she was a woman. Wazir says she used her influence and longtime friendship with Arafat to prevent it. She pushed for a woman to be appointed to the Gaza City Council and says she has been working to persuade Arafat to appoint another woman to the authority, which still has some open seats.

Recently, Wazir helped draft a declaration of principles which would revise laws permitting polygamy and discrimination against women in matters of inheritance. She promised to fight for the declaration to be included in a new Palestinian governing charter, which is expected to be revised in the next few months.

Wazir describes her relationship with Arafat as a "friendly, working one," and says she has access to him whenever necessary. But there are rumors of friction between her and Arafat's wife, Suha, as the two leading women in Gaza.

The Wazirs were once the leading Palestinian revolutionary couple; today, the entire family is actively involved in helping build the Palestinian Authority. Three of the five Wazir children live with their mother in Gaza. Bassem, 27, a graduate of California State University, is working with Team

chief negotiator Nabil Sha'ath's engineering and management consulting company — to set up a central computer system in the autonomous area. Inan, 26, is working with the UN Development Group in Gaza, is married and has a three-year-old daughter. Also living in Gaza is Nidal, nine, who was in the house in Tunis when his father was assassinated.

Hannan Intisar, 23, and her husband, Ahmed Edik, one of a group of returning deportees, live in Ramallah with their three-year-old daughter. The oldest son, Jihad, 31, is obtaining a Ph.D. in management technology in England and is expected to return to Gaza.

The Wazirs are staying with an uncle in a quiet Gaza neighborhood, and will soon move into their new house. The entrance to their current home features a large, spray-painted picture of Abu Jihad. In the porch is a striking full-length painting of the revolutionary standing among Palestinian mothers, children and fighters of the intifada. Behind him is a smaller, glamorous Intisar wrapped in a keffiyeh.

Bassem Wazir entertains a reporter while they wait for his mother to return from a meeting with Arafat. Bassem talks of the problems of being a single male in a traditional society — "It's hard to date," he confesses — and the son



Intisar Wazir at home; the only woman on the Palestinian Authority says she has a friendly, working relationship with Arafat, but is rumored to be at odds with his wife. (AP)

of someone many Palestinians consider a great hero.

"There's tremendous pressure to be like my father and follow in his path," he confides. "I call it restrictive beneficial."

He says he enjoys living in Gaza, which he saw for the first time only a few months ago.

"It makes me feel proud to live here, to see all the pictures of my father," he says. "I feel, for the first time, a sense of security after so many years of being deported from Jordan, Syria and Lebanon."

When he hears that this reporter lives in Tel Aviv, Bassem asks many questions about the city. He is eager to visit if he can obtain permission. Does he harbor resentment against Israel? "I'm willing to let go of the suffering and pain for the sake of my people," he says. "I'm willing to compromise for others."

But speaking of the Israeli-PLO agreement he says: "What do I get from this agreement? My mother gets to go back to her homeland, but I don't get to go back to mine. My father was from Ramle."

AT LAST Wazir arrives home. She is small, with short light brown hair streaked blonde. She wears a simple, knee-length blue dress, a short, multicolored jacket, and black pumps. Around her neck is an onyx necklace with small diamonds, and small diamond stud earrings sparkle from her ears. She collapses into a plush green chair in a room decorated with seven pictures of her husband. She seems oblivious to the phones ringing and children screaming around her. The housekeeper hands her a glass of water.

She struggles with her English and turns to her son often for translation. She becomes animated talking about her past.

Wazir traces her activism back to 1956, the year Israel captured and stayed in Gaza for a few months during the Sinai Campaign. She says an Israeli soldier came to her house seeking information about Khalil Wazir's brother, who was a political activist. She saw him strike her father, she says. This galvanized her. Through a high-school teacher, she heard about the underground Palestinian movement.

"All I knew was that as Palestinians we must do everything possible to achieve our rights," says Wazir. "When I found a way through the Fatah movement, I joined the revolution."

Wazir didn't dare tell her father, but he confided in her mother, who told her she would lose interest in politics when she married. But her marriage became intertwined with politics.

One of the speakers at a meeting of the underground movement was her first cousin, Khalil Wazir, then a rising revolutionary star living in Kuwait.

After the meeting, Khalil Wazir asked his cousin if she would become his assistant, sensing that as a woman she would be able to move about without suspicion.

She eagerly accepted and spent the next few months smuggling messages and weapons to terrorist cells in the West Bank and Gaza, and reporting back to Khalil. During this period, the two cousins fell in love; they married in 1961.

They spent their honeymoon visiting underground cells. Over the years, the family moved from Lebanon, Syria and Jordan, forced to leave when these countries deported the PLO. Wazir continued her work even while raising her children, something that would have been impossible without her husband's support.

"My husband never put obstacles in the way of my working and always supported me, enabling me

to move freely everywhere," she says. "He was very open-minded and believed that the revolution needed all the efforts of men and women. He was the first leader to let his wife work."

But she admits that her life-style took its toll on her children. "They suffered so much, but I think they believed in our work, they understood what we were doing," Wazir says.

IN 1966, Wazir helped found the PLO welfare committee for families of martyrs.

"We lost many of our comrades and I always went to their families and took responsibility for visiting them," says Wazir.

The PLO, flush with funds from the Gulf states, provided generous pensions for these families. But after the PLO supported Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990, funds for the PLO dried up, and so did many of these pensions.

Now the Palestinian Authority is struggling to set up a tax base and build an economic infrastructure, which Wazir is optimistic will ease the financial problems. She expects that in three months she will have funds to disburse.

Wazir is commissioning a study to determine how much each needy family should receive. She also hopes to set up a rehabilitation program for the 5,000 Palestinian prisoners who have been released. She estimates her budget needs about \$8 million a month.

Wazir says she thinks often of her husband. Tears come to her eyes as she remembers him. She is not sure what he would think of the peace agreement.

"Sometimes I would ask him, 'What will we do if we finally get our state?'" she says. "He would say, 'We will put a tent near the shore and live together with our children in peace.'"

"We can see that the situation is changed now, and we Palestinians need to feel we're at home and live in freedom and in peace with our children in an independent state with East Jerusalem as our capital. This is the main aim. I think he would feel the same."

A new trend in UK Moslem extremism

Hizb ut-Tahrir, the Islamic Party of Liberation, is now being regarded by the British public as much more than just a group of eccentric lunatics, Douglas Davis reports from London

IT is not often that Saudis and Jews find themselves giving thanks for deliverance from a common enemy, but they did it in London this week when a mass rally of Islamic extremists failed to bring the heavens down on their collective heads.

Following the bombings of the Israeli Embassy and a Jewish community center late last month, there was understandable anxiety that Britain had refused to ban the Islamic extremist Hizb ut-Tahrir Party from holding a mass rally in London on Sunday.

The Jewish community, via its Board of Deputies, huffed and puffed; so, too, but less loudly, did several Arab embassies, though less loudly.

The most strident protest of all came from Paris, where French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua accused Britain of playing up to the fundamentalists while he was putting seven Algerian radicals under house arrest in a remote corner of his own country.

Hizb ut-Tahrir, the Islamic Party of Liberation, featured an all-star cast of fundamentalists at its conference. Though it did not ignite a global jihad last weekend, it did pull in an audience of 8,000 and put itself firmly on the map.

Its leaders, who had previously been regarded with benign British condescension as eccentric lunatics, are now being taken seriously, albeit not seriously enough.

Islamic leaders of all shades acknowledge that the Hizb is the fastest-growing trend within the British Moslem community today, challenging moderate imams and taking control of virtually all Moslem societies, on university campuses.

HIZB UT-TAHRIR is neither new nor indigenous British. It was born in Hebron in 1953 with the specific aim of developing a *khalifa*, an international Islamic community, based exclusively on koranic teachings.

Unlike the Moslem Brotherhood, which pursues its Islamic goals through education and persuasion, the Hizb has chosen the revolutionary path.

"We are not like the Jews who go meekly into the gas chambers," said one follower. "We fight."

"There are 123 verses in the Koran about fighting and killing," Hizb spokesman Farid Kassim noted last week. "Ours is not a passive religion."

In Britain, where the majority of the 1.6 million Moslem population are under 25, under-educated and underprivileged, this is heady stuff. The message of liberation-through-revolution is winning hearts and minds as fast as anti-militaristic tracts can be printed.

The primary targets of the Hizb's hatred are Jews in general and Israel in particular. Not far behind, however, are various Arab regimes. There is special contempt for the Saudi royal family, whose members are derisively described as "chocolate Moslems" because "they melt to please the regimes of other countries."

In 1974, its members attempted to assassinate the late Egyptian president Anwar Sadat; at present, three followers in Jordan are awaiting execution for plotting to kill King Hussein.

In return, the Hizb is loathed — and banned — by most Arab states.

PARIS HAS been badly burnt by Islamic radicals. Gratitude for

sheltering the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini while he incited his Islamic revolution in Iran is now being repaid by Algeria's FIS, which has embarked on an orgy of slaughtering French citizens.

France has apparently learned its lesson, but Britain has not, which is why London has become a soft target for Islamic radicals, as well as a safe haven, a recruiting center, and a terror destination. According to one senior Middle East commentator: "The British capital is humming with the chatter of Moslem revolutionaries from all over the Islamic world."

Last October, for example, Britain approved a visit by a Hizbullah delegation, which met a wide variety of radical Islamic groups and leaders in London, including Sheikh Rashid Ghanoushi, exiled leader of Tunisia's extremist An Nahda ("Revival") movement.

Ghanoushi, who had been denied visas to the US and France, was granted political asylum in Britain last year, having arrived in 1991.

According to a report by the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, Ghanoushi supported Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait and now maintains close contacts with Teheran.

Speaking in Khartoum just before the Gulf War, he exhorted Moslems to "be serious in their warning to the Americans that a blow against Iraq will be a license to strike at American and Western interests throughout the Islamic world."

In 1990, he was the most senior Sunni Moslem at the Islamic Conference on Palestine, which was held in Teheran and attended by leaders of Hizbullah and Islamic Jihad.

Since then he has modified his views, arguing that the US is not the enemy of Islam, but rather the hapless victim of "a Jewish strategy for waging war against Islam."

Ghanoushi, 53, is also among the most vociferous Islamist opponents of the peace process.

Writing in *Filastin al-Mustama* in October 1993, he described the Israeli-PLO Oslo accord as "a Jewish-American plan encompassing the entire region, which would cleanse it of all resistance and open it to economic and cultural activity, culminating in complete Jewish hegemony from Marakesh to Kazakhstan."

And in a tape distributed by the Islamic Association for Palestine last March, he reiterated his support for the rejectionist Hamas, "which we believe has taken the right stand." He also expressed confidence that "the Moslem nation will get rid of the Zionist cancer."

Ghanoushi is not alone in benefiting from the abundance of British hospitality.

According to Iranian exiles in London, recent high-level visitors have included Iran's intelligence chief, Ali Fallahian, and a former prime minister, Ayatollah Mahdavi Kani, who now heads the Society of Militant Clergy in Iran.

British hospitality notwithstanding, Teheran has apparently become more cautious after so many accusing fingers were pointed in its direction following last month's car bombings.

Iranian officials reportedly decided not to send a large recruiting delegation to the Hizb ut-Tahrir conference, for fear that members would be detained by British authorities and questioned about Iran's intelligence network in Europe.

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Ramon's new Histadrut test case – Giora Einy

HISTADRUT chairman Haim Ramon's campaign to clean out the Histadrut's stables, which conveniently keeps him in the headlines, found a new target this week – Giora Einy's pension.

Ramon's insistence on making a test case of what is not even one of the most generous pension settlements obtained by a senior Histadrut official, bears all the markings of an ugly vendetta.

Ramon appears to be using Einy's pension as a tool to focus public attention on what he calls the corruption in the Histadrut and the distorted pay agreements its senior officials arranged for themselves – all of which he intends to change.

The attack against Einy, for which Ramon enlisted the media, is nothing short of character assassination, sources close to Einy said this week.

Einy, who served as head of the Histadrut's legal department for 24 years, retired three months ago. Ramon's office this week issued statements to the press citing Einy's pension at over NIS 12,000 a month, and Ramon announced that "there is no way that I will pay that kind of pension to anyone."

But according to the pension checks Einy has been receiving since June 1, the gross monthly sum is NIS 8,900 (70 percent of his gross wages), and the net sum actually paid out, after taxes, is NIS 3,300.

Never in his wildest dreams did

Einy, whose reputation was gained as a confidant of both Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, imagine appearing in headlines as an example of public corruption.

Einy could have been a Knesset member and even a minister due to his close relations with Rabin and Peres; but he declined these offers and even refused to serve as an elected Histadrut official, preferring the inconspicuous role of political adviser.

He is probably the only Histadrut official of his rank who never charged the federation for meal expenses or took a taxi receipt, Histadrut sources say.

What seems to infuriate Ramon more than anything else is that Einy has what is known as a budgetary pension – which means that from the time he retired until age 65, he will draw a monthly pension.

Ramon and his Ram colleague MK Ran Cohen charged that Einy's option of a global pension – that is, taking out his entire pension fund from now until the age of 65 (Einy is 51 years old) – will cost the Histadrut NIS 1.6 million, which it can ill afford.

However, Histadrut legal sources dismiss such arguments as pure demagoguery, since the Histadrut constitution forbids taking out the entire pension fund at once.

Budgetary pension is in fact an early retirement plan to which any public sector official, civil servant, army officer, Kupat Holim official

The Histadrut chairman's attack on the federation's former legal department head has the look of an ugly vendetta, Michal Yudelman writes

or government corporation worker of a certain rank and seniority is eligible, usually at a younger age and with a higher pension than Einy's.

For example, a department director in the Justice Ministry may retire at the age of 40, with 10 years of seniority, with a higher pension than Einy's. So can ministry directors-general and many other civil servants, including Knesset members.

A calculation of Ramon's salary as MK shows that if he retired from political life, he would receive a pension worth more than NIS 2m. until he is 65, if he takes it out in one lump sum, and could reach NIS 3m. if he goes on living for several years after that.

NIS 2m. is a considerable sum for someone supposedly representing the poor and needy sectors of society, some Histadrut officials pointed out this week. Ran Cohen's global pension would reach "only" NIS 1.5m. – the same amount as Einy's.

However, while Einy, from the age of 65, will be drawing a pension from his pension fund, to which he contributed from his paycheck all these years, Ramon and Cohen will continue to be a

burden on the taxpayer until the day they die, and without having made any payments toward their old-age pension. Such are the privileges of the public sector.

But no one in the Histadrut has yet heard either Ramon, Cohen or any of the MKs Ramon brought with him to run the Histadrut – while remaining in the Knesset – announce a willingness to forgo oversized pensions.

Nor have they made any attempt to cut down the generous pension arrangements of Na'amat's secretary-general, 60 trade union leaders, some 70 local labor council secretaries and the judges of the Histadrut tribunal.

How did Einy ever reach the "exorbitant" pension of NIS 3,300? His pension, says head of personnel and administration in the Histadrut Meir Gatt, who was suspended last week as part of the fight over Einy, is not in any way exceptional.

Contrary to the claims of Ramon's people, Einy did not "arrange for himself" a generous pension settlement. Eleven years ago the Histadrut's control committee decided, at the Likud's request, to give faction heads the option of getting a budgetary pension at a

higher rate, like elected officials, in the eventuality that they would be forced to quit for political reasons – as a result of a change in the Histadrut leadership, for instance.

Einy, who served for 17 years as Labor's Histadrut faction head, in addition to being legal department head, was warned that he was targeted as Ramon's next victim – this before the latter was elected chairman. And rather than wait to be kicked out, Einy tendered his resignation immediately after the Histadrut elections.

The Histadrut's legal adviser and control committee approved Einy's pension agreement, based on the settlement reached in 1983, and Einy became a pensioner in May. Ramon started his term on July 1, and a month later ordered the annulment of Einy's pension.

Gatt said the pension is calculated on the basis of Einy's grade in the legal department and not as an elected Histadrut official, which would make it much higher (see sidebar for Histadrut wage structure).

The pensions of Histadrut elected officials are calculated on the basis of that which civil servants,

MKs and ministers arranged for themselves, although at a lower rate.

Since Ramon's onslaught against Einy, one economic columnist labeled Einy "the Effendi" and compared his pension to Ernst Japhet's (who received \$4 million in severance fees and \$28,000 as a monthly pension), without bothering to find out the actual amount Einy gets.

Einy, who loathes any form of exposure and refused to be interviewed for this article, is now in a position where he has to explain to the neighborhood grocer and bus driver (he goes almost everywhere by bus), that he did not rob the public coffers.

Einy doesn't understand what Ramon has against him, although it is common knowledge that no love was lost between the two in Labor's Young Guard and other bodies they both participated in over the years.

Sources close to Einy suggest it is Einy's reputation for being the "glue" keeping Labor's leadership together that rubs Ramon the wrong way.

Without Einy's reconciliation efforts, many say, Rabin and Peres would not have made up

after their many disputes and the ensuing impasse would have destroyed the party from within. The sources recall Einy's services only two weeks ago, when he managed to bring about a truce between Rabin and Peres after their latest dispute over the premier's trip to Washington to sign the agreement with Jordan's King Hussein.

Ramon wants to become prime minister and Einy, the sources insist, is a thorn in his side who keeps making peace between Rabin and Peres, enabling them to continue functioning together.

Besides, Einy symbolizes Labor's old leadership to Ramon. Hitting Einy would, in some way understood by politicians only, be tantamount to hurting Rabin and Peres and weakening them.

As far as Einy is concerned, the damage has been done. He has been branded a corrupt public official and is now obliged to use his savings to pay a lawyer to defend him in court.

Ramon, who intends to take the case to court, will not be paying for it from his own pocket – the Histadrut's legal adviser, whom he brought in on a personal contract, will do it for him, at the Histadrut members' expense.

Everything you wanted to know about Histadrut salaries

THE wages of Histadrut workers are linked to the civil servants' wage grades according to different categories such as social workers, legal advisers, administration and services employees, academics and professionals.

All the figures quoted are gross wages, before tax deductions.

Most grades begin at minimum wage level and come up to between NIS 4,000 and NIS 5,000 for the highest grades and 35 years of seniority.

For instance, workers with legal training receive from a minimum of NIS 1,428 for a beginning grade to NIS 3,659 in the highest grade with a seniority of 35 years, plus an incentive raise introduced in February of be-

tween NIS 1,005 for the lowest grade and NIS 1,424 for the highest with 35 years' seniority.

Administration and services workers receive between NIS 1,998 and NIS 3,565 for the highest grade and 35 years' seniority. Social workers receive between NIS 1,790 and NIS 2,227 for the highest grade and 35 years' seniority.

Workers who have professional grading, including academics in the social and humanities departments, engineers, technicians and journalists, receive between NIS 2,198 and NIS 7,561 for the highest grade and 40 years' seniority.

Wages for elected officials (members of the executive bureau) are based on professional grades, plus all kinds of added benefits, and

can amount to NIS 9,328, including car expenses and other additions. For section heads, they average NIS 15,000. The heads of trade unions get a salary of between NIS 11,000 and NIS 14,000.

The Histadrut Comptroller's Office gets the highest wages, which it sets for its own workers without requiring the approval of the Histadrut institutions. Here the salaries are based on those in the State Comptroller's Office, in addition to various Histadrut additions.

Nine officials in the comptroller's office receive wages of between NIS 20,000 and NIS 30,000. This does not include the Histadrut comptroller himself, who is retired and receives a monthly pension from the Nativ pension fund, in addition to car expenses. M.Y.

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New signs of life in the hottest, driest place on earth

Savannas can replace bleak desert areas in the Negev and around the world, Abraham Rabinovich reports

ECOLOGISTS from 14 countries stood in a circle beneath the midday Negev sun, staring at a patch of desert floor as if it contained the secret of life. A small bush occupied one corner of a small rectangular space enclosed by a white plastic strip. Nothing was visible in the rest of the enclosure except bone-dry desert.

But according to Dr. Moshe Shahack of the Institute for Desert Research of Ben-Gurion University, in that bush, in the seemingly sterile ground around it, and in the unseen system that linked the two, lay the promise of stemming the relentless spread of deserts around the world.

"The ground around the bush is not barren," Shahack told the assembled visitors. "It is covered with little plants invisible to the naked eye - mosses, lichens, algae. How can they grow on the floor of the desert, the hottest and driest place on earth, when they need water to reproduce?"

To understand Nature's answer to that question, he explained, is to have an insight into how to reverse the process of desertification.

"The tiny plants glue together the soil particles so that when rainfall comes the water cannot percolate into the ground. The rain runs off on the surface, leaving a two-millimeter layer of water in which the plants can reproduce."

But for the bush, this water, caught by its invisible plant cousins in the seemingly bare patch around it, provides life-giving nourishment. Growth of bushes

and trees in the desert could be artificially stimulated, Shahack said, if the hard desert surface were selectively broken up so that water gathered in cavities.

Raising their eyes from the tiny experimental patch, the visitors to the Sayeret Shaked Research Station near Ofakim could see how the Jewish National Fund was putting that newly grasped theory of the desert ecosystem to practical use. Around them, in what had been a barren wasteland, trees and brush were taking root.

The JNF's project to create an area of savanna was the focus of a week-long workshop this summer attended by ecologists from China, India, Egypt, Kenya, Mexico, Uzbekistan and other countries, where rapidly spreading deserts are on a collision course with booming populations.

The participants learned how some 50,000 acres of formerly barren desert - 2 percent of the Negev - are being dappled with green and shade.

The increasing desertification around the world, where 40 percent of land surface is already arid or semiarid, gave the workshop a tone of urgency.

Prof. Huang Zishen of China's Institute of Desert Research noted that more than half his country is arid or semiarid and that 30 percent of China's population lives in such areas.

The Egyptian undersecretary of state for afforestation, Dr. Mamdouh Riad, said he hoped Israel would cooperate with Egypt in savanna projects in his country. Prof. P.L. Shalo of Kenya said



A bush that consumes water trapped by tiny, invisible plants around it can green even the most arid areas. (Joe Maloolin)

that more and more of his country's growing population will have to move into the semiarid and arid zones which constitute 80 percent of Kenya's territory. "We need this kind of technology to allow us to live in those areas," he said.

THERE HAS been much previous research in the world on both desert plants and on microphyte desert organisms, invisible to the

naked eye. The Israeli innovation, Shahack said, was in recognizing the connection between the two and developing a system for exploiting it by directing runoff from microphyte patches into catchment areas for the nourishment of trees and bushes.

"We create a new ecosystem that is partly natural and partly man-made," he said.

The workshop was the first to

be held by the International Arid Lands Consortium, a joint Israeli-American body established in 1991. Its research is underwritten by a \$1 million grant from the U.S.

The Nabateans had shown, more than 2,000 years ago, that the scant rainfall of the Negev could be harnessed with dams and reservoirs so as to permit farming and small-scale settlement. The savanna project, however, is not

aimed at developing agriculture.

Dr. Menahem Sachs, head of the JNF's southern region, noted that overgrazing by sheep and goats over thousands of years has virtually denuded the Negev of natural growth. By permitting trees and brush to take root once more, the JNF is halting soil erosion, providing areas for controlled grazing in the future, and creating an infrastructure for

recreational development. Residents of Ofakim and other Negev communities will eventually find themselves living in the congenial environment of a savanna, rather than the bleak desert in which their settlements were founded.

Sachs said that the project is being carried out in areas with as little as 100 to 200 mm. of rainfall a year and is intended to reverse desertification on a broad scale.

In conventional afforestation programs in areas with normal rainfall, some 1,000 trees are planted per hectare. In the Negev savannas - where no trees had grown before - about 100 are planted per hectare.

About half the deserts in the world could be reclaimed as savannas, says Shahack. "You can't do it where there's no rain at all, or if there are dunes that don't permit water runoff."

Although the runoff in the Negev's savanna zones is not sufficient to sustain the intensive type of agriculture practiced here, the Israeli experts said, countries with less advanced agriculture might be able to exploit the savanna principle for that purpose on a limited scale, as did the Nabateans.

Aid to Jordan first

JORDAN may be the first foreign country to be offered direct Israeli assistance in greening its desert areas.

An aide to Foreign Minister Shimon Peres recently discussed the possibility of a savanna program in Jordan with experts at the Sede Boker campus of the Mitrani Center for Desert Technology.

"Jordan would be an excellent place to try this," said Dr. Moshe Shahack, head of the savanna research team. "It has Beduin who need areas for pasturing and it also wants to develop tourism. They're very conscious of environmental protection." A.R.

Enough said: IDF spokesman put army's cards on table

Brig.-Gen. Ilan Tal's post-Gulf war tour of duty as IDF spokesman was particularly eventful, he tells Alon Pinkas

ON a bright and sunny August day in 1991, Brig.-Gen. Ilan Tal, a career intelligence officer, unexpectedly found himself appointed IDF spokesman. He followed in the footsteps of Nahman Shai, the tele-spokesman who, during the Gulf war, had been responsible for reassuring the public that they were safe.

Far from being an anticlimax,

Tal's post-Gulf war tour of duty turned out to be particularly eventful. Lt.-Gen. Ehud Barak's first spokesman witnessed the October 1991 Madrid conference; the continuation of the intifada; the exposure of the Duvdevan and Shimshon undercover units; the introduction of the first feasible IDF multi-year plan; the 1992 elections; Operation Accountability in Lebanon in July 1993; the

Oslo accords and the ensuing Israeli-PLO negotiations; the Cairo agreement; the redeployment of the IDF in the Gaza Strip and Jericho; and, towards the end of Tal's tenure, the beginning of a tangible peace process with Jordan.

Before leaving for Germany, where he will take up the post of IDF military attaché next week, Brig.-Gen. Tal reflected on his hectic three-year tenure as IDF spokesman, during which his office issued 13,000 press releases, and answers to reporters' questions.

Q. You served as spokesman from August 1991 to August 1994. Can you provide an overview of the major developments in the IDF during these years?

A. The army went through transformations and adjustments to changing realities in several areas: routine security of borders; the war against terrorism; the war in South Lebanon; the ongoing intifada; and the rise of Hamas in the Gaza Strip and especially in the West Bank.

During these three years, how did the army's operations in the territories and its attempts to prevent and deal with terrorism differ from previous years?

The IDF emphasized a more localized and surgical policy against terrorism. We tried to isolate ter-



Tal: 13,000 press releases and answers to reporters' questions in three years. (IDF Spokesman)

ror cells and separate them as much as possible from the general population. That was achieved by a closer intelligence and operational cooperation between the General Security Service and undercover units. What we call the "unconventional" component in the war against terrorism was em-

ployed widely, and the result was that we succeeded in apprehending wanted individuals from Hamas, the PLO, and rejectionist fronts. The methods used by the army and the GSS created an atmosphere of fear and persecution for armed terrorists.

We have to admit, though, that

the vast majority of the population still regards us as an occupying enemy. I think that, overall, our contacts and confrontations with the population were carried out with the utmost sensitivity to their needs and special predicaments. It was a complicated reality in which a thin line separated respectful and humane behavior from a ruthless loss of moral standards. I am happy to say that the IDF behaved according to the highest acceptable norms of a democratic society.

Why did the army reveal the existence of the undercover units? Didn't this tarnish their deterrent power?

The chief of staff's decision to expose these units was criticized severely at the time, but, in retrospect, it was necessary in the situation. In the long run, it would have been impossible to conceal their existence from the public and the media. It was a paradox. The Palestinians knew about them, and sometimes identified them, but the Israeli public didn't. We did not compromise their tactics or methods of operating. All in all, the exposure clarified that these are army units, and undermined allegations that they were some kind of "death squad."

During your tenure, military correspondents wrote extensively about the multi-year plan and the IDF's future battlefield concepts and force structure. This was an unprecedented openness, attributed partly to the Gulf War, which resulted in a short-term diminished threat assessment. Can you elaborate?

The underlying premise was that the crumbling of the "Eastern Front" option, and the disintegration of the Soviet Union, enabled the IDF to plan ahead, compromising short-term training and buildup in favor of long range - in adjustable five-year increments - force restructuring and weapons acquisition. Budgetary constraints required a sharp cut in day-to-day operations or, in other words, taking a short-term risk.

Have military-media relations changed drastically in the last three years? Does this reflect a broader change in the military's relationship with society?

Israel is unique in that the army is central to our existence and experience, and public interest in the IDF greatly exceeds public interest in the military in other societies. The volume of reporting on

the various facets of the army is immense. During my tenure as spokesman, there were processes which had an impact on military-society relations. For example, the intense competition between newspapers and the two television channels produced a more aggressive and probing approach to writing about the IDF. It helped in that wrongs were exposed and corrected, accidents reported, and the military closely observed. But, the other side of the coin was that, despite improvements in the army, the general picture had a negative tint to it.

Can this also be attributed to the political debate in Israel over the peace process and the IDF's role in it?

The Oslo accords presented a formidable challenge to us, namely, to keep the IDF out of this heated debate. Only an essentially apolitical army, in which regular soldiers and reservists accept the command structure, and the supremacy of the civilian authorities, could carry out missions and orders based on publicly controversial decisions. This applies especially to the IDF's relations with the settlers in the territories. The army has a responsibility to protect them, but has an equal responsibility to maintain the rule of law. I think that in the final analysis the army remains apolitical.

Politicians, from both the right and the left, do not always seem to agree with this assessment of the army's impartiality on "peace" issues.

In an era of primaries, where media exposure is a legitimate and effective political instrument, there are, regrettably, some politicians who are politically motivated to criticize the army. They have the primaries, not the issue itself, in their sights, and that sometimes results in an inaccurate and imbalanced judgment.

Going to Germany as the military attaché is a very emotional experience for you, isn't it?

In 1956, when I was six years old, I lived in Germany. My father, the late Col. Avigdor Tal, was the first representative of Israel's Defense Ministry in post-Holocaust Germany. He was involved in the establishment of Israel's close and secretive defense relations with Germany. Going to Germany in the same capacity as my father, but openly, is indeed a very emotional closing of a circle for me.

HALLELUJAH
MEITAR, the Association for fostering cultural relations among Jews, Eitan Gafni, Producer of Hallelujah, the Worldwide song contest for Jewish Youth and The Jerusalem Post thank their collaborators:

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Public TV makes commercial networks look benign

EYE ON THE MEDIA

DAVID BAR-ILLAN

It may well be that only those who have been reared in the US can appreciate the influence Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), little known outside America, exerts on American journalists and politicians.

In a land where all major networks—dependent on commercial advertising and large audiences—are forced to appeal to the lowest common denominator, PBS occupies a unique place. Public-supported and commercial-free, it is the only network professionals take consistently seriously.

Its news coverage is admired for being precisely what the commercial programs are not: thorough, searching, analytical and balanced. And its longish "in-depth" documentaries are deemed the last word in seriousness and historic perspective. They may lack professional slickness, but they ooze sincerity and even-handedness.

Unfortunately, this exalted image has little to do with the truth. In the treatment of the Arab-Israeli conflict, no commercial network in the US is as guilty as PBS of conscious prevarication, outright falsehoods, and contempt for the most fundamental journalistic ethics.

The network's anti-Israel bias dominates the choice of productions to the exclusion of virtually any other consideration. Films produced by PLO propagandists

are accepted without question. In the network's search for Israel-bashing material, values like propriety, professional standards, rules of evidence, and basic fairness are cast to the winds.

What is particularly troubling about PBS's distorted productions of Israel-related programs is not only that they are numerous—in the past 17 years 24 documentaries have been screened, of which only three can be considered relatively balanced—not just that they are shown repeatedly throughout North America on affiliated stations.

What makes them a lasting menace is that they are turned into videos for the use of students.

The network's "Middle East Peace Collection" is a video library advertised and sold to schools, universities and researchers. Claiming to provide understanding, background and context to the Arab-Israeli conflict, they are deemed authoritative and balanced, the ultimate examples of investigative international journalism.

But if truth-in-advertising laws mean anything, the collection should be named an assortment of PLO fantasy. One need not have an over-active imagination to realize that after using them as source material, a whole new generation of journalists and politicians will approach the subject of Israel incalculably with falsehoods.

UNTIL RECENTLY, there was little anyone could do about this. With the kind of hubris and arrogance only public-subsidized ideologues can display, PBS officials have ignored complaints, rebuttals and factual challenges. Even when reviewers protested the outrageous bias in the Nazi-like, Israel-bashing 1989 documentary *Days of Rage*, PBS was unrepentant.

Last October, Dr. Alex Safian, senior researcher for the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America (CAMERA), took a recent PBS documentary film, *Journey to the Occupied Lands*, and analyzed every section and picture in it. The result was a stunning, detailed exposure of deliberate distortions, manufactured evidence, errors and misinformation.

The analysis was distributed among administration officials, congressmen and media personalities, who demanded an explanation from PBS.

Pressed to respond, PBS asked the documentary's producer Michael Ambrosino (who received \$700,000 for the film) to prepare a reply to Safian's charges. A few months ago, in collaboration with his chief researcher Marty Ro-

senbluth—an anti-Israel activist who has signed ads calling for the dismantling of Israel—Ambrosino submitted a 33-page defense of the documentary.

Strangely, PBS refused to send Safian a copy of the rebuttal, even though it was distributed to the public figures who had demanded it. But Safian got a copy and after studying it released an even more thorough, documented analysis in reply.

It shows not only that Ambrosino's film and his defense of it are a web of falsehoods, but that Ambrosino knew he was lying.

Some of Ambrosino's assertions in the film are so ludicrous they are laughable. When he says that "the port of Gaza used to be a bustling commercial center on the Mediterranean coast, open to the world; the occupation changed all that," one tends to guffaw.

Gaza never had piers or wharves and was never a real port. It could accommodate only a few tiny boats, and under the British Mandate its share of Palestine's total cargo was 0.3 percent. Under the Egyptians it declined even further. (It is thanks to repeated assertions in such documentaries, financed partly by the American taxpayer, that Arafat is able to

bemoan "the destruction of our infrastructure by the Israelis.")

Another deliberate lie is a charge that Israel "barred Palestinians from exporting citrus directly to European markets." That this is plainly untrue is known by every student of the subject: since 1988 Gaza citrus and other Palestinian produce have been exported by Gazans directly to the European Community. But Safian proves that Ambrosino and Rosenbluth not only lied, but knew they were lying.

A January 1990 article in *International Labour Reports* by Rosenbluth features a picture of a young man carrying a carton of "Gaza Top" oranges. The caption reads, "Gaza Top, a consortium of fruit producers, is one of the few Palestinian companies exporting under its own label. The EEC refused to approve trade accords with Israel if it insisted on the fruit being exported through an Israeli company."

And Ambrosino himself stated in an April 1993 letter that the prohibition on direct exports was lifted in 1987.

As Safian puts it, "Direct citrus exports are allowed. Ambrosino and Rosenbluth knew this and intentionally deceived their

viewers. As with the rest of their film, the guiding principle is to malign Israel regardless of the injury to truth."

BUT THE centerpiece of the "documentary" is a story about land. The myth that in 1967 the Israelis displaced Arabs and robbed them of their land is the central theme of PLO propaganda.

To illustrate it Ambrosino used a faked satellite picture (if there is one irrefutable gimmick in the arsenal of today's commun it is high-tech sleight-of-hand), and painted in "images" of Jewish settlements to show how the settlements, growing like cancer, crowd out Arab villages. (The truth is, of course, precisely the opposite. The presence of Israelis in the territories, and the resultant economic boom, caused an unprecedented burst of growth in the Arab population and in building expansion.)

The faked "evidence" is supported by one personal story, of Palestinian Sabri Gharib, who claims on screen that Israel stole a large plot of land, over 40 acres, which had been in his family for generations.

As Safian describes it, "He claims at first that the Israeli court will not accept his documents. In the end, Mr. Ambrosino tells us somberly that finally the Israeli court decided that most of the

land was in fact Gharib's, but now the court won't even enforce its own decision."

But, as Safian's excellent research uncovered, Gharib is a chronic litigant, who has appealed to various courts for 14 years. His claim has been found totally baseless by the High Court, and he has been fined for pressing frivolous motions by three different lower courts. To say that the Gharib story—like the vast majority of "stolen land" claims—is a pack of lies would be an understatement.

SAFIAN'S DETAILED, thorough analysis of this Israel-bashing PBS documentary is unprecedented. It is the first time anyone has bothered to dismantle such an edifice of falsehoods brick by brick.

Precisely this kind of task should have been undertaken by Israel's information offices long ago. But no Israeli government has ever deemed the attempt to discredit the whole Zionist enterprise—the more successful twin of the effort to deny the Holocaust—worthy of attention.

It can only be hoped that in the case of public-financed PBS, both private contributors and the US Congress will peruse Safian's 144-page analysis. If they do, they will stop supporting what has become the closest imitation of the old Soviet propaganda machine in the Western world.

How do you figure that?

VIEW FROM NOV
MOSHE KOHN

Figures don't lie, but liars figure. My university statistics teacher A witty statesman said, You might prove anything by figures.

Thomas Carlyle, "Chartism" YOU don't have to be a conspiracy-theorist to suspect that someone is leaking stories to the news media aimed at delegitimizing the 130,000 Jewish denizens of Judea/Samaria/Gaza District. The perpetrator seems to be an unidentified high source in our defense establishment.

I refer to a leak of findings of an poll conducted by the IDF insinuating that the great problem facing our soldiers is "the settlers."

According to the report, in May the IDF's Behavioral Sciences Unit asked about 900 conscript soldiers, including officers, serving in Judea/Samaria/Gaza District how they felt about the relations between them and those areas' Jewish denizens.

On August 4 some newspapers carried blaring headlines over stories reporting that the survey showed that "settlers" humiliate soldiers and this is eroding IDF morale. The way they treated the item suggested that this characterizes the relations between the IDF and those Jews.

Only later in their stories did those newspapers report the actual statistics. Furthermore, they attributed the statistics not to the IDF, but to "settler" sources who had reportedly seen the survey and its findings, as though what was involved was a difference of opinion rather than an unadorned, uninterpreted presentation of the data.

For whatever they are worth, the statistics show that only a minority of the soldiers queried felt that way.

Here are the reported data:
• 69 percent said the Jews of Judea/Samaria/Gaza District obey IDF orders and don't harass the soldiers in any way;
• 57 percent praised those Jews for their hospitality;
• only 20 percent said those Jews interfered with IDF operations;
• only 11 percent complained of disrespectful treatment.

Those 20 percent and 11 percent are 20 and 11 percent too many. But they are far from indicating, as those stories implied, that the 130,000 Jews of Judea/Samaria/Gaza District characteristically hinder and harass our soldiers. (The data I have presented are based on reports in the August 4 *Jerusalem Post*, *Ha'aretz* and *Yedioth Aharonot*, and the August 5 *Ha'aretz*, with attributions to Aharon Domb, spokesman of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea/Samaria/Gaza District, and National Religious Party MK Shaul Yahalom. Domb confirmed

to me the accuracy of the figures attributed to him.)

THE ACTUAL findings seem to bear out a complaint of the B'Tselem human rights organization only five months ago about too much coziness between the IDF and "the settlers."

B'Tselem said then that the IDF "has shown protracted impotence in dealing with violence perpetrated by the settlers against Palestinians."

And, said B'Tselem, "This is not a chance development, but the product of the close ties between the IDF and the settlers."

(See *The Jerusalem Post*, March 16, 1994.)

Could this latest IDF Behavioral Sciences poll be a scheme for covering up that IDF "settler" collusion rather than another attempt to delegitimize "the settlers"?

MAY WE hope that some independent, unaffiliated statisticians or pollsters will examine this IDF poll and analyze the questions and the findings? And that they will tell the public all about it, and not feed it to us in tendentious bits that poison the air?

In the winter of 1992, the rabbi-bureaucratic Labor MK Avraham Burg commissioned a poll of school pupils' attitudes. He then reported the findings as showing ours to be a racist, xenophobic society, and used the poll as the basis for a special attack on the religious school system.

Several sociologists and pollsters, including those of the Tele-seker organization that conducted the poll for Burg (to the best of my knowledge, none of them are political or religious rightists and only one is Orthodox) attacked him for having made "wrongful and unprofessional use of the data" (*The Jerusalem Post*, December 13, 1992).

When the text and findings of the IDF Behavioral Sciences poll are officially made public in full, will it transpire that those responsible for last Wednesday's partial leak, or the mediators who published the leak, similarly made "wrongful and unprofessional use of the data"? Will it transpire that the questions the pollsters asked were formulated in such a manner as to make that poll what Dr. Gadi Wolfeld, senior lecturer in research methods in the Hebrew University's Department of Communication and Journalism, has characterized as a "propaganda poll"? (*Jerusalem Post*, July 10?)

I asked the IDF spokesman whether, in view of what I and others regard as a tendentious leak, the IDF would publish the full text of the poll and its findings. He would only say that the IDF regularly conducts such polls, whose findings are intended for use by the command echelons.

Be that as it may, the leak as it was published casts a large shadow of politicization on the IDF. If I were defense minister or chief of the general staff, I would want to clear the IDF of such a suspicion. (With thanks to Dr. Joseph Lerner, head of the Jerusalem-based IMRA/Independent Media Review and Analysis.)

FOREIGN MINISTER Shimon Peres worked with Berl Katznelson, Second Aliya mentor of the Zionist Labor movement, as a young man. Late last week he said (according to a paraphrase in the August 5 *Davar*, the Histadrut newspaper Katznelson founded and edited) that Katznelson had "shaped his [Peres's] moral and ideological path."

The occasion was an assembly at Kibbutz Kinneret, in whose cemetery Katznelson is buried, marking the 50th anniversary of his death in Jerusalem on Shabbat Ekev, 23 Av 5704 (August 12, 1944), aged 57.

We know about the readiness, almost eagerness, of Peres and others to "give back" large areas of historic Eretz Yisrael—the West Bank—or simply "the Bank"/*HaGadda*—for the "new Middle East" pipedream. In 1937, when the British Royal (Peel) Commission recommended partitioning Western Palestine into a Jewish and an Arab state, Katznelson (and like David Ben-Gurion and others) adamantly opposed the idea. When World War II broke out, he reluctantly accepted the idea, in the hope that that would quickly give the Jews control of an area to which to bring refugees.

Accepting the idea on pragmatic grounds, however, was not the same as accepting it as a guiding principle that includes waiving historic affinity and rights. And Katznelson in 1937 told the eager partitionists:

"So long as we do not ourselves make disclaimers, things aren't lost for us.... Our children are raised on local-patriotism: Tel Aviv patriotism, Jerusalemism, Nahalalism.... But it is enough that we love the Eretz Yisrael in which we are present while excluding from this love the Eretz Yisrael in which we are not present? Let us not deplete the life-giving essence of things; we will have need of it yet" (*Collected Writings XII:347*).

SRULIK



Respect authority, reject authoritarianism

SHABBAT SHALOM
SHLOMO RISKIN

"If there arise a matter too hard for you in judgment... you shall come unto the priests the Levites, and unto the judge that shall be in those days... and they shall declare unto you the matter of judgment.... You shall not turn aside from the matter which they shall declare unto you, neither to the right nor to the left." (Deuteronomy 17:8-11)

ONE of the thorniest problems facing anyone who takes both religion and humanistic liberalism seriously is whether adherence to tradition means adherence to the authority of the carriers of that tradition. Are we to bow to previous generations without question, piously relying on the homily that "since we don't even come up to their shoelaces," who are we to second guess the greats?

The biblical reading certainly seems to suggest authoritarianism. Rashi explains: "Even if he [the religious authority] says to you that right is left and left is right [you must not turn away], and certainly if he says right is right and left is left."

Coming from a totally different perspective, the Jerusalem Talmud in Tractate Horayot (1:1), writes that we are required to listen to authority only if "...they say to you about the right that it's right, and about the left that it's left." If we know the Sages, old or new, to be in error, we're duty bound not to listen to them.

Given the seeming distance between these positions, is reconciliation possible? The following incident brought this issue home to me.

There is a group of teachers and scholars, rabbis and writers, religious and secular Jews who meet periodically with the purpose of

isolating and recognizing not what divides us but rather what unites us as a people.

One of its sessions was dedicated to the question of religious observance vs. participation in the IDF. My own view supports the *yeshiva* heder movement—a five-year commitment combining army service and Torah study. In this light, I argued that service in the army is a religious requirement.

If it's so clear, asked one of the secularists, then why do the haredim insist on automatic exemptions to the question of religious observance vs. participation in the IDF. My own view supports the *yeshiva* heder movement—a five-year commitment combining army service and Torah study. In this light, I argued that service in the army is a religious requirement.

He argued that Torah study is as important as army service for the protection of the state. He went on to address the problem which an army with nonreligious values poses for innocent young scholars raised in the values cherished by classic Judaism.

After he finished, one of our group confronted him with my textual sources. His response was unequivocal: With all due respect to me and my sources, when it came to proper religious practice, it is not to the texts that we must turn, but to the Torah sages of the generation.

His automatic reliance on current authority to the exclusion of the source texts runs contrary to everything my revered teacher and mentor, Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik, taught his students.

Devotion to authority without

taking the sources into account contradicts basic concepts of Judaism. The Talmud teaches *hacham adif m'navi*—the Sage who utilizes his powers of reasoning is preferable to the prophet, even if the latter has the benefit of Divine communications.

There is a fascinating discussion which strengthens this position by defining—and limiting—our relationship to authority figures. We read in the Talmud: "R. Yitzhak said: 'How do you know that a disciple is to visit his rebbe during the festivals?' Because of the verse [asked of a woman by her husband as she prepares to visit Elisha the prophet], 'Why will you go to him today, it is neither the New Moon nor the Sabbath?' proving that on festival days people visited their rebbes." (B.T. Sukka 27b)

Although it clearly appears from this source that a disciple is duty bound to visit his teacher, none of the Codes of Jewish Law include such a prescription. Why not?

RABBI YEHEZKEL Landau, in his *Noda Bi-Yehuda* (the *Tinyana* or second edition of *Orach Haim*, Responsa 94), answers this question by citing another Talmudic source: "R. A'ivo in the name of R. Yanai says: A disciple should only stand in the presence of his rebbe once in the morning and once in the evening; the respect he displays to his rebbe should not be greater than the respect he displays to heaven." (B.T. Kiddushin 33a)

The *Noda Bi-Yehuda* explains that although the Bible enjoins us to visit the Holy Temple during

the festivals, since the destruction of the Temple this law is not operative. Consequently, if the Halacha required a disciple to visit his rebbe during the festivals, that would mean we'd be asking a person to honor his rebbe more than he is required to honor the Divine Presence. This we cannot do.

I would continue Rabbi Landau's line of reasoning by arguing that since the sacred texts are the most authentic carrier of the living word of God, automatically favoring a contemporary authority implies greater respect for a human than for the Divine Presence!

At the same time, however, I cannot condone many so-called modern Jews who have little training in religio-legal adjudication, yet rarely consult rabbinic figures. It must be understood that Judaism is more than a personal expression; it is all too easy to rationalize whatever we would like to do.

Hence the Mishna in *Avot* requires: "You must establish for yourself a rabbi or a religious authority" (1:16). One has the right to turn to the religious authority of one's choice, as long as it is accepted by an observant community. It is imperative that we honor the Torah giants who, by embodying this tradition, continue to nourish us in each generation. However, we each have the right and even the obligation to question our authorities on the basis of the sources.

Only with challenging disciples can a teacher truly announce: "Much have I learned from my Masters; even more from my colleagues, but most of all I have derived from my students."

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Jockeying for position with the banks

A British broker is taking a safe risk by entering the local financial services arena. Neil Cohen reports

STEVEN Astaire comes from a risk-taking family. His father, Jarvis, is a famous promoter, best known for staging major boxing bouts, such as the Tyson-Bruno fight. Astaire is one of Britain's only Jewish amateur jockeys - which, at the age of 42 and at 1.88 meters tall, makes him even more unusual.

But Astaire has made it by taking risks that weren't really risks. In 1990 he bought back the London brokerage firm that bears his family name from LIT Holdings, which had bought it from Credit Lyonnais, one of France's major state-owned banks. His uncle Edgar, with whom he fell out, founded the firm in 1960.

In their eagerness to participate in the deregulation of UK securities markets, otherwise known as the "Big Bang," many banks, both British and foreign, made ill-advised acquisitions. Credit Lyonnais, for example, bought both Astaires and the much larger firm of Alexanders, Laing and Cruickshank. Eventually they realized that they had bought two firms that did essentially the same thing, and decided to sell Astaires to LIT.

LIT, a fast-growing financial services company, was subsequently hit hard by heavy losses in another subsidiary and let Astaires go.

As the original sale agreement to Credit Lyonnais had stipulated that no one could use the name

Astaires but a member of the family, Steven was a logical buyer. He had worked in the firm since leaving school. As LIT was keen to sell, he picked up the business for about £250,000, around 30 percent of its net asset value.

Less than four years later, that deal looks pretty astute. In 1993 Astaires made a net profit of £711,532, almost double the 1992 figure. Astaire's 50 percent stake in the firm is probably worth several million pounds now. Nonetheless, he pays himself fairly modestly by the standards of the City of London, earning £97,000 in 1993. One director, though, made a cool £421,000, most of that coming from performance-related payments.

Astaire's latest "risk" is venturing into Israel, not, as a few US firms have done, to sell Israeli stocks back home or drum up underwriting business, but rather to service the sizable community of immigrants who are permitted to invest abroad. Astaires is, he says, the first UK broker to open an office here.

The firm has always been international in its outlook, selling foreign equities and bonds and representing clients all over the world.

They range, Astaire says, from major Malaysian corporations to British tax exiles resident in Monte Carlo, to German mortgage banks in Bremen.

Indeed, 80 percent of the firm's revenue and 40 percent of its clients



Steven Astaire (left) and Daniel Fuchs plan to provide services to immigrants here who are permitted to invest abroad. (S. Uziely)

come from abroad.

While offering clients a full service, Astaire says the firm's specialty is finding interesting overseas bond situations that are too obscure for the really big brokers and institutions.

This typifies Astaire's opportunistic approach. For example, when he opened the firm's only other office in Cheltenham (whose attractions to him were a wealthy population and a famous racecourse) he visited the three local public companies and offered to administer their share option schemes. The companies were happy to be relieved of the chore and Astaire soon picked up

a sizable amount of employee business. The other brokers in town "were more interested in getting out on the golf course," he says.

Israel was, Astaire says, a logical choice. "Where else," he asks, "is there a stable, growing economy, with a large expatriate community that is not overbroke? No other country offers the opportunities this country does. There is a window of opportunity here, and it is not going to be open very long."

He feels that the local banks just do not have the expertise to serve immigrants in foreign markets. "I went into a bank and went

over to the girl who advises on foreign investments and asked her on what basis she recommends foreign bonds to clients. She said she takes out the book of listings and looks for names that she recognizes. We don't expect all their business, but I hope the banks and brokers will respect what we are doing and support us."

In addition, he says, opening an office in a fiercely competitive Hong Kong, for example, would cost about £400,000. Here the figure is a quarter of that.

Astaire is also enthusiastic, perhaps a little naively, about the benefits peace will bring. "I want to be acting for the Bank of Gaza

and the Bank of Jordan," he says. Moreover, Astaire believes that when conditions are right his firm's presence here will enable him to sell Israeli stocks to clients abroad, though that is not his priority at this point.

Astaire has recruited Daniel Fuchs, a banker formerly with Israel General Bank and Maritime Bank, to be the firm's representative here. Astaires will be offering a toll-free dealing line, which they hope will entice clients seeking to keep their phone bills down.

Astaire has high hopes but modest expectations. "If we are in profit by the end of year two, I'll be happy," he says.

Brazil hit by 'real' price rises

Brasilia is introducing yet another new currency. Todd Lewan reports from Rio de Janeiro

DINING out, a night at the theater, a bed and breakfast in a mountain resort used to be expensive in Brazilian currency but a steal for anyone with US dollars.

Those days are gone. Now, following a government currency change and a series of price hikes by merchants, Brazil has gone from one extreme to another. The US dollar, the unofficial currency throughout Latin America, no longer provides the anti-inflation cushion it once did for tourists, expatriates and the majority of Brazilians, who have long tried to keep most of their money in greenbacks.

Inflation in Brazil compounded to 200 billion percent from 1976 to 1993. Relief came only when the government froze prices or "corrected" savings and wages to match the cost of living.

Many Brazilians - from rich to lower middle-class - tried to buy dollars on the black market to protect themselves, because historically the dollar's value paced or exceeded the inflation rate. When Brazilians needed to buy things, they would change dollars back to cruzeiros for the purchase.

Inflation slowly began to outpace the dollar, but prices really exploded on July 1, when the government created the real, a new currency pegged to it.

To build confidence in the real - Brazil's sixth currency since 1985 - the Central Bank flooded the market with dollars to drive down the value of the US currency.

Worsening matters, merchants exploited widespread confusion during the two-month-long switch from the cruzeiro to the real, and doubled, even tripled prices in terms of the real.

Due to the changes, theater tickets in Rio that used to sell for the equivalent of \$6 to \$7 now sell for the equivalent of \$18. A double room in a bed-and-breakfast in a mountain resort that used to cost \$15 now costs \$45.

A carton of orange juice costs as much as \$2.25, in a tropical country renowned for softball-sized oranges and bountiful fruit harvests.

"Prices used to go up in nominal terms, in worthless cruzeiros, so if you bought dollars as a hedge you didn't feel it as much," said Luciano Granja, 32, a chemical engineer with the state oil monopoly Petrobras. "But now, prices are rising in real terms."

Finance Minister Rubens Ricupero has called the increases "abusive," but he said prices will decline when merchants realize there will be no price controls. (Associated Press)

Airline offers new luxury service to woo high-flyers

If you love old-fashioned luxury travel reminiscent of the Orient Express train but don't have the luxury of time, the new MGM Grand Air may provide the right combination.

The exclusive airline created by entertainment mogul Kirk Kerkorian seven years ago and turned into a charter service in bad times is back.

It has reinvented itself as a carrier that restores the frills no longer available in top-class travel on other airlines.

"Many travelers remember what first class used to be and are willing to pay" for it, said Robert Gould, president and chief executive of the small Los Angeles-based airline, at a recent news conference launching the new service.

Three Boeing 727s each accommodate only 34 passengers instead of the usual 125, while three DC-

8s have 70 seats instead of the typical 186.

The single "Grand Class" service, which will take off on September 8, will ensure that full-fare executives, celebrities and other high-flyers paying up to \$2,880 for travel between New York, Los Angeles and Las Vegas do not rub shoulders with the economy crowd.

Banishing cramped seating and overhead luggage bins, MGM Grand's planes feel more like spacious railway cars with a lounge, stand-up bar and cabins, called "state rooms," with oversized seats that turn into roomy sleepers.

An optional limousine service takes passengers to the airport for curbside check-in, while hosts and hostesses serve free drinks, hors d'oeuvres and fresh-cooked gourmet food on board.

Current movies are shown on

A US airline is bringing frill-filled travel to an exclusive clientele, at exclusive prices. Richard Chang reports from New York

television monitors, while telephones and personal computer outlets cater to more business-minded travelers.

MGM GRAND Inc., the airline's parent company, has created the so-called "Gold Triangle" direct service between the three cities mainly to promote its new MGM Grand Hotel, Casino and Theme Park in Las Vegas - one of the world's biggest. MGM Grand is 73 percent owned by Kerkorian through his holding company, Tracinda.

"Prior to this, we were a stand-alone airline," said Gould, former president and chief operating officer of Eastern Airlines, the defunct carrier. "Now we're here to promote the hotel, casino and theme park."

Kerkorian founded MGM Grand Air in September 1987 as a high-class carrier, naming it after MGM Studios which he had acquired. Coach-class service was added in 1990 to attract more passengers.

But as the industry's fortunes

flattered, MGM Grand Air abandoned scheduled flights and became a full charter service in December 1992, with clients that included pop star Madonna, Fortune 500 corporations and foreign dignitaries.

MGM Grand Air has now forged links with the Royal Cruise Line, shuttling jetsetters to and from extended luxury holidays at sea and in an around-the-world tour next April.

The tour will also include Abercrombie & Kent International Inc.'s "Eastern & Oriental Express" luxury train, which travels from Singapore to Bangkok, modeled after the original route between Paris and Istanbul.

If YOU want a custom-outfitted plane all to yourself, as pop star Madonna did on her five-continent "Blonde Ambition" concert tour last year, MGM Grand Air

still offers charter service but its main focus is now on scheduled flights.

Talks have begun with international airlines to build on its exclusive franchise, Gould said. "That's the next step."

About 100,000 travelers are willing to pay the full fare for first class service annually and demand has been growing steadily, he said.

He expects MGM Grand Air flights to be 58 to 60 percent full, with most passengers on the New York-Las Vegas route since direct flights between the two cities are scarce.

Daily flights between New York and Los Angeles are available for \$2,880 round-trip. New York-Las Vegas flights take off from Thursday through Sunday for \$2,100 round-trip. The Los Angeles-Las Vegas fare is \$364 round-trip. (Reuters)

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The legend of Jacoby

BRIDGE

MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

South dealer
Both sides vulnerable

| North (dummy) | | East | |
|---------------|--------|--------|--------|
| ♠ A2 | ♠ 9754 | ♠ 9754 | ♠ 9754 |
| ♥ K964 | ♥ 8 | ♥ 8 | ♥ 8 |
| ♦ J107 | ♦ 8 | ♦ 8 | ♦ 8 |
| ♣ 9843 | ♣ Q107 | ♣ Q107 | ♣ Q107 |

Opening lead: ♣Q

ONE of the most flamboyant players of all time was Oswald Jacoby. Born in Brooklyn in 1902, Jake, as he was known by friends, became an attorney at the age of 21, went into business for himself four years later, then lost it in the 1929 crash.

A great gin and backgammon player, Jacoby took up bridge and soon became a living legend. He won every major tournament and played for the original Four Aces.

In between sessions, he wrote books on poker, canasta, gin rummy, backgammon, mathematics and bridge, where he is remembered today by tournament players for the name of bidding conventions, Jacoby Two Notrump and Jacoby Transfers.

At the bridge table, Jacoby seemed to dominate; he was always first at the analysis in the postmortem, and had the flaw of thinking too fast. His mouth could never keep up with his brain, resulting in an occasional stutter and run-on sentences.

He was also a bit hyperactive. When he was dummy, he would leave the table as soon as the opening lead was made.

Jacoby also had a fine sense of humor. One time a friend of his, not such a good player, was about to play in a tough rubber bridge game at the Regency Club in New York. Jacoby told him to be very careful, because the stakes were very high. His friend said, "The worst I can do is lose."

Jacoby answered, "That's the best you can do."

Despite being a mathematician, Jacoby often backed his table presence over the odds. Once in seven-heart contract, he held seven hearts to the ace, king, queen,

10, opposite a singleton in dummy. The odds favored a 3-2 division, and Jacoby himself would recommend that the best way to play the suit was to cash the ace, king and queen, hoping for the jack to drop.

Because it was almost dinner time, not one of the many kibitzers had left the table, Jacoby sensed that the jack was lying fourth. So he went to dummy and took a first-round finesse to make his slam. Indeed, his right-hand opponent held jack four times.

Near the end of his life, his partners had to become conservative to compensate for Jacoby's aggressive bidding. He liked to bid every time it was his turn to call. When asked why, he answered, "At my age, the bidding may never get back around to me."

Today's deal was played in a social game while Jacoby was still a young man, but it appears he liked to bid a lot even then. Sitting South, he opened a strong two spades and when his partner made the rather odd raise to four spades, Jacoby asked for aces and kings. Finding one ace and one king, he bid a grand slam, a dubious call, for the odds surely favored that at least one of North's honors would be in hearts, and therefore be useless.

When dummy came down, Jacoby saw that he had to avoid the loss of a trump loser to make his grand slam. This time there were no kibitzers to help him. If you study the situation, you will see that the best play to make the contract is to finesse West for the king-doubleton of spades.

Most declarers would lead the queen of spades at trick-two, trying to induce West to cover. If West held three spades to the king, he could refuse to cover and defeat the slam. But if West held a doubleton king, he would be finished. If West covers, declarer can draw trumps, and if West plays low, the ace will next drop his king. Unfortunately, most declarers would fail on the actual layout, because after West covers the queen with the king, declarer will cash the jack and 10 and concede a trick to East's 9.

Jacoby gave himself an extra chance, the vigorous, as they say in the backgammon world. He made the psychological play of the 10 of spades from his hand. When this produced the king from West, Jacoby assumed that the king was singleton. West was very unlikely to cover a 10 with the king doubleton. After winning the ace in dummy, Jacoby led the deuce back toward his hand, sticking in the eight, when East played low. This was a finesse of the 9, a finesse very few declarers would spot.

At THE time of the Second Temple, domestic chickens, probably brought here from Persia, were just becoming common in Israel and Judea. In Galilee, where the residents were familiar with the hoopoe, they called this new fowl *tarnegol*, and the rabbis declared it kosher.

However, in the Jerusalem area, in fact throughout Judea, where the hoopoe was not familiar, residents gave the new chickens a name they found in the Bible - *duchifaf*. The Scriptures state that the *duchifaf* is an unclean fowl, so the rabbis declared chickens *treif*. It was a long time before the question was settled and all the residents of this country could enjoy chicken soup.

The pile of rubbish that the hoopoe uses as a nesting site can't really be thought of as a nest. Anything and everything is piled up around the eggs, which are laid in any available cavity: a hollow tree, holes in stone walls, discarded packing cases, piles of tires, and almost anything else. Paper, grass, stalks, bits of plastic and so forth are used to build the nest, which is particularly smelly as the hoopoe never tidies or cleans her nest, allowing the excrement, regurgitated food and decaying bits of semi-digested food which the chicks expel when frightened to pile up. In addition the female, when defensive, excretes a malodorous liquid from her preen glands that adds to the general stench. This unpleasant stink does, it seems, serve a purpose: Stray cats avoid the site.

The hoopoe nests in March and April and incubates its five or six eggs for 18 to 19 days. The chicks are fed by both parents for about three-and-a-half weeks on a diet of caterpillars, grubs, insects and even small reptiles.

The hoopoe is also unusual in that it does not drink water, but will sometimes dip its food in water before eating.



In flight, the strikingly attractive hoopoe resembles a gigantic butterfly as it flutters and swoops close to the ground. (Eliahu Harari)

Almost chicken soup

NATURE

D'VORA BEN SHAUL

THERE are so many unusual things about the hoopoe - *duchifaf* in Hebrew, *Upupa epops* in Latin - that it is hard to know where to start enumerating its peculiarities. First of all the hoopoe is the only member of the family Upupidae - in other words a family with a single genus and a single species.

In flight, the hoopoe, with its body length of 26 to 30 cm, and a wingspan of about 45 cm, is strikingly attractive. It has a brownish-pink body and startling black-and-white wings and tail; some think it resembles a gigantic butterfly as it flutters and swoops close to the ground.

Along the head and neck the hoopoe has a crest of pinkish-brown feathers with black tips, which when opened like a fan seem to turn golden as the light strikes them.

There are two populations of hoopoes in Israel: those that come here as winter migrants and the resident population that live mostly along the Coastal Plain, in Galilee and the Negev. It is only in the past few decades, as a lush type of agriculture reached the Jerusalem hills, that the bird has been a frequent sight in the area.

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The hoopoe is also unusual in that it does not drink water, but will sometimes dip its food in water before eating.

Psychology - or cheating?

CHESS

NIGEL DAVIES

THE current PCA world champion, Gary Kasparov, has been known to place his knights back to front and try to intimidate his opponents by "eyeballing" them and using aggressive body language. Is this "psychology" part of the game? In my opinion a better term would be "cheating," as it is using nonchess means to try to upset the opponent.

Emanuel Lasker was one of the most subtle thinkers in chess history, with a wonderful feel for the human element in the game. But he confined psychology to the board and seemed to know exactly which type of position would make his opponent least comfortable.

The St. Petersburg tournament of 1914 was arranged on an unusual basis. The first tournament, comprising 10 games, acted as a qualifier for a second event of eight games, scores being carried forward.

Despite playing quite well in the qualifier, Lasker found himself a full 1½ points behind Capablanca. How could he contest first place with the Cuban genius when conceding such a margin?

Lasker, playing the greatest chess of his career, succeeded in winning game after game. The critical point came in the penultimate round, which he had to win. This was a game of great poise and courage. Rather than play for complications, Lasker played the Exchange Variation of the Ruy Lopez strategy, notorious for resulting in draws.

The genius of this choice is that Black's slightly compromised pawn structure means that he should not sit passively by and try to exchange pieces, but aim for active counterplay with his pair of bishops. But Capablanca, needing only a draw, was psychologically unprepared to wage an active struggle and was steadily outplayed.

Lasker later wrote: "The spectators had followed the final moves breathlessly. That Black's position was in ruins was obvious to the very tyro. And now Capablanca turned over his king. From the several hundred spectators, there came such applause as I have never experienced in all my life as a chess player. It was like the wholly spontaneous applause which thunders forth in the theater, of which the individual is almost unconscious."

Lasker, E. - Capablanca, J.

Spanish Opening
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6! dxc6 5.d4 exd4 6.Qxd4 Qxd4 7.Nxd4
The pawn structure has been defined; Black's queenside pawn majority will be unable to yield a passed pawn unaided by pieces. Readers with time and enthusiasm might care to analyze the pawn ending.

7...b6 8.Nc3 Ne7 9.0-0 0-0 10.f4 Re8 11.Nb3 f6 12.f5!

This last move created a minor sensation. At the time of this game the concept of dynamic weaknesses was not understood, and had Lasker lost this game the critics would have pointed accusingly at the weakness on e5. But Lasker's understanding of strategy was way ahead of his time and he knew that the e5 weakness was not that serious and was more than compensated for by the cramping effect of the pawn on f5.

12...b6 13.Bf4 Bb7 14.Bxd6 cxd6 15.Nd4 Rad8?

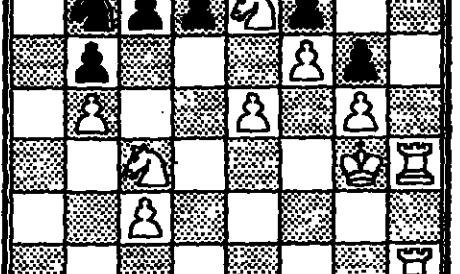
Black has been gradually drifting into a bad position, but this is a serious mistake after which he will never be able to eject the knight from e6. He should have played 15...Ra7 followed by 16...Bc8.

In the following stage of the game, Lasker inhibits Black's attempts to gain space on the queenside before starting his own advance on the other side of the board.

16.Ne6 Rd7 17.Rad1 Ne8 18.Rf2 b5 19.Rf6 Rd7 20.f4 Kf7 21.a3 Ba8 22.Kf2 Rg7 23.g4 h6 24.Rd3 a5 25.h4 axb4 26.axb4 Rg7 27.Kf3 Rg8 28.Kf4 g6 29.Rg3 g5+ 30.Kf3 Nb6 31.hxg5 hxg5 32.Rh3 Rd7 33.Kg3

Staying faithful to his plan, Command of the h-file is more important than the d-pawn.

33...Ne8 34.Rdhl Bb7

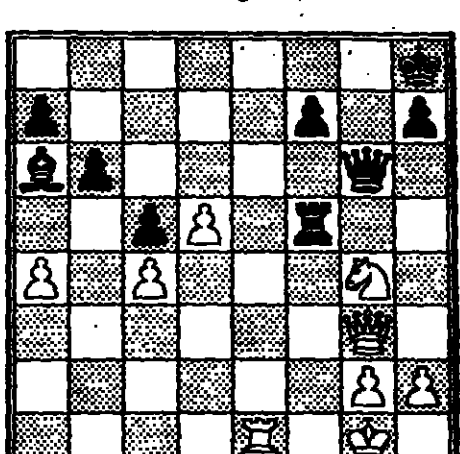


35.e5!

The decisive breakthrough. After 35...fxc5 there is, as in the game, 36.Ne4, and 35...d5 would have been met by 36.Nc5.

35...dxc5 36.Ne4 Nd5 37.Nc5 Bc8 38.Nxd7 Bxd7 39.Rh7 Rf8 40.Ral Kd8 41.Ra8+ Bc8 42.Nc5 1-0

THIS WEEK'S problem is from a 1972 game won by the great Yugoslav Grandmaster Svetoslav Gligoric, playing White, against Lubosh Kavalek. White to play. (Solution beneath diagram.)



Solution: Gligoric won with 1.Nh6! Rf6 (1...Oxg3 is met by 2.Re8+ Kg7 3.Nxf5+ followed by 4.Nxg3) 2.Re8+ Kg7 3.Rg8+ Kxh6 4.Qh4+ 1-0.

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GARDENING

INEZ KLIMIST

HERE comes the hottest part of summer, and with it, an increased need for mulching and watering.

It's not the best time to try sowing seeds outdoors: You could lose them to the heat and insufficient watering if you're not careful.

Hardier plants such as geraniums, marigolds and petuniums can be transferred in heat better than the more delicate begonias, petunias and lobelias.

Plant only in the evening hours, after direct sunlight has passed the spot you wish to fill. Water the soil thoroughly before you plant, and gently again afterwards. Do not water with a strong spray from the hose; rather, remove the nozzle, and drip a very fine stream around the roots.

Be sure your plants do not dry out during the day. Keep the new plants completely covered during the hot and sunny hours (using an empty flower pot or paper cone), for at least six or seven days, depending on how hot it is. Feeding with a weak solution of fertilizer will also help to minimize transplant shock.

The most efficient way to water all your plants in this kind of weather is with irrigation hoses (if you have any). If you have any doubts, go and look at the flowers at Wingate Square on Jabotinsky Street in Jerusalem. They have been fantastically healthy and beautiful through all the heat.

With this system the loss to evaporation is minimized, and the water goes directly to the roots. Also, the plants can be watered during the heat of the day without wetting the leaves.

If you have a device that turns on the water automatically, so much the better. Set the clock for three short waterings rather than one very long one. Otherwise, turn on the water two or three times a day for short periods.

To economize on watering and prevent the soil from drying out, water the earth around the plants and then lay a blanket of organic matter, which retains moisture.

Compost is the most efficient mulch. Well-rotted manure, sawdust and ground tree bark will condition the soil and add nutrients at the same time.

Weeding will help to conserve water, because weeds steal water (and nutrients) from your garden plants. If you use a hoe, be extra careful not to damage plant roots.

Pruning helps, too. Prune out old growth from shrubs that flower in the spring and early summer (when they finish blooming), and keep dead-heading all your plants. Dead-heading means cutting off the flower heads as soon as they finish blooming. This keeps the plant from using energy and nutrients to make seeds, instead of producing more flowers or new leaves. This is especially important for rose bushes. They will

start to make rose hips, and will soon stop blooming completely.

DID YOU know that, in order to encourage planting and care of gardens in Jerusalem, the water department will give you a discount on your bill? You need to present an accurate measurement of your garden (in square meters) and a copy of your last water bill. Go to the same offices on the main floor at City Hall where discounts are given on *amona* bills.

QUESTION FROM reader L.A. in Jerusalem: What would you recommend for a ground cover in a shady spot?

Fast growing, perennial ground covers for full shade include ivy (*Hedera*), ajacora (needs a lot of water), dichondra (purple flowers in spring), cerastium (silvery foliage, white flowers), and oxalis (white or pink flowers all summer). All of these will do well even in the heat of an Israeli summer.

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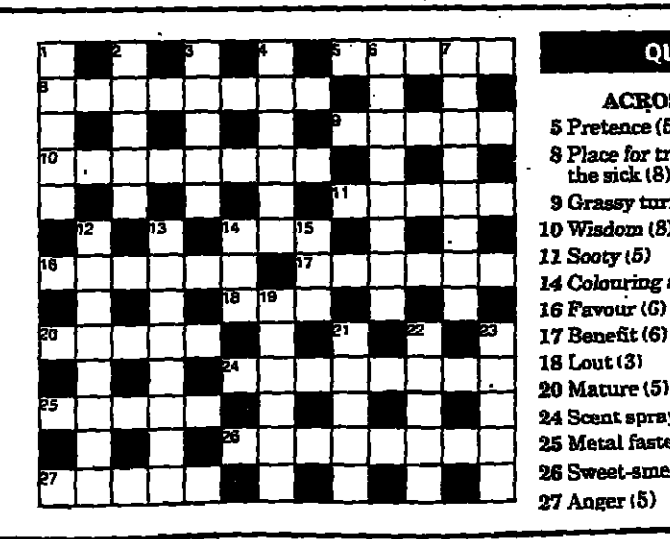
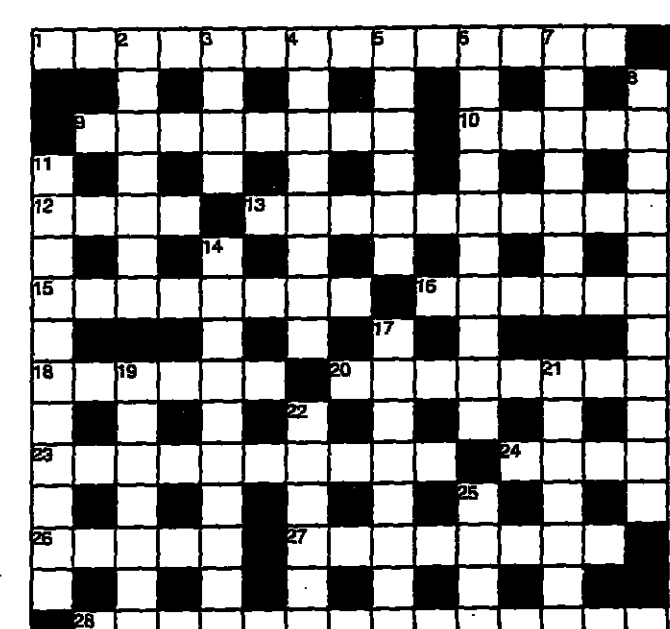
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 It could be an additional lapse (14)
- 9 Lever used to thump a computer device (8)
- 10 She went back between nine and eleven (5)
- 12 One expected to succeed (4)
- 13 Scoundrel Lucie endlessly could be caught in strange school course (10)
- 15 Wind could have set in before (8)
- 16 Spend time in a relaxed way, but not in this suit? (6)
- 18 Artilleryman coming in with spirit (6)
- 20 One on foot on the road gets the price right (8)

DOWN

- 23 Cutting off one being abusive outside (10)
- 24 Dean mixed gin with energy (4)
- 26 It flies the lady over (5)
- 27 Discharge while some is in camouflage (8)
- 28 Struggle to create conflict? (4,1,5,2,2)
- 2 Gambler that is on southern group of animals (7)
- 3 Current maps redrafted (4)
- 4 The French coin having risen first one hundredfold (8)
- 5 Henry turned up with raw material from a place in Pakistan (6)



SOLUTIONS

MASSACRE IMPORT
O A I S D V O N
R E A I S D V O N
S O R V I L L A G E A P S I S
S O R V I L L A G E A P S I S
A P O I N T M E N T
S M O O T H C H I P
S R E O L C S
E X T O R T I O N
N O R O P P A R T V
T R A P S E A R C H
S I E N P E T I O
D E S T R U C T I O N

Yesterday's Quick Solution
ACROSS: 1 Pollen, 4 Asians, 7 Breathing, 9 Treo, 10 Arid, 11 Penny, 13 Raster, 14 Severn, 15 Pelvis, 17 Arrive, 19 Thugs, 20 Tang, 22 Agus, 23 Eleventh, 24 Stream, 25 Sedia.

DOWN: 1 Pastor, 2 Love, 3 Neater, 4 Athens, 5 Iona, 6 Sudden, 7 Broadline, 8 Greenings, 11 Pettit, 12 Years, 16 Petala, 16 Shaves, 17 Agents, 18 Smura, 21 Giza, 22 Acon.

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 5 Pretence (5)
- 8 Place for treating the sick (8)
- 9 Grassy turf (5)
- 10 Wisdom (8)
- 12 Sooty (5)
- 14 Colouring agent (3)
- 16 Favour (7)
- 17 Benefit (6)
- 18 Lout (3)
- 20 Mature (5)
- 24 Scent spray (8)
- 25 Metal fastener (5)
- 26 Sweet-smelling (8)
- 27 Anger (5)

DOWN

- 1 Hunt (5)
- 2 Established procedure (5)
- 3 Nip (5)
- 4 Signal support (6)
- 6 Undeserved (6)
- 7 Clamber (8)
- 12 Manufacturer (8)
- 13 Industrial waste (8)
- 14 Thrifty (3)
- 15 Decline (3)
- 19 Clamour (6)
- 21 Copy (5)
- 22 Hebridean island (5)
- 23 Veracity (5)

Menem's damage secure Jerusalem's stability stems from 'om Argon's a's chre lure in m gating unishing emitic icks. opular ro on to mbing is roblem a n rgenti e half of a, but of aths of other story man in l the bom terrible re are that sh, he ad was only

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JFK assassination: Reliving the day the dream died

TRAVEL

SUE FISHKOFF

It captured the imagination more than any other event in recent political history. Although Dallas would like to erase this particular chapter from its history, the hundreds of thousands of tourists who pour into the city every year to visit the presidential assassination site won't let the memory fade.

When John Fitzgerald Kennedy was shot dead on November 22, 1963, America's dreams came crashing down with him.

The US was at the peak of its ideological and economic power, the leader of the free world. More Americans were under 25 than ever before. They had money, energy and a feeling of invulnerability.

The killing marked a brutal coming-of-age for a nation drunk on its ideals. It seemed inconceivable that one hate-filled man could have destroyed a nation's hopes.

The Kennedy assassination had to be a conspiracy, Americans claimed. It had to be a plot by foreign masterminds or domestic enemies, a powerful cabal of evildoers. Conspiracy theories abounded, fueled by the revelation that the FBI and the CIA had withheld crucial information from the Warren Commission.

The KGB did it, Castro did it. Anti-Castro elements in the US, angered at Kennedy's pledge not to invade Cuba after the Bay of Pigs fiasco, hired Lee Harvey Oswald to fire the fatal bullets. The Mafia was behind it. Right-wing southern conservatives joined forces with the Ku Klux Klan to kill him. The FBI and the CIA did it.

But to this day, no one has conclusively refuted the Warren Commission's main finding, that Oswald fired the bullets that killed Kennedy.

And the pilgrimages to Dallas continue.

The tourist industry has kindly obliged, with enough Kennedy-related sightseeing to fill an entire day.

BEGIN the day at the Sixth Floor museum at 411 Elm Street, located inside the old Texas School Book Depository from whose sixth-floor window Oswald is said to have fired the fatal bullets at the presidential motorcade.

The museum presents an informative and lively multimedia chronicle of the Kennedy presidency, culminating in a detailed look at the assassination and subsequent investigations.

The minute-by-minute account of JFK's arrival at Dallas's Love Field the morning of November 22, his triumphant motorcade ride through the city, the cheering crowds, Jackie's pink suit, and, finally, the tragic gunshots, the race to the hospital, the first sketchy news reports and the final, shocking realization that the president was dead—all this is presented in colorful yet tasteful displays that maintain a careful balance between titillation and sober historical recreation.

Cardboard boxes are stacked before the southeastern window through which Oswald pointed his high-powered rifle, so visitors can "look" through the killer's eye. Yet the video presentation of the actual assassination freezes just seconds before the shooting, so visitors are spared the dubious thrill of watching Kennedy's head snap back and then forward as the bullets strike.

After at least two hours in the museum, die-hard Kennedy fans should treat themselves to "JFK: The Tour," a 90-minute, 33-km. trip along the actual assassination route conducted by historian John Jovich in his own minivan.

Jovich is an amiable, talkative fellow who has made the Kennedy assassination his life's work for the past 22 years. He has interviewed 13 people who were in the motorcade that day, including most of the Secret Service agents and Lady Bird Johnson. He has delivered more than 500 lectures on the topic, been the subject of scores of newspaper



President John F. Kennedy and Jackie Kennedy arrive in Dallas about two hours before his assassination. (Courtesy)

articles and television shows, and is the editor of *Reflections on JFK's Assassination*—his interviews with 250 prominent Americans recollecting that fateful afternoon.

Jovich's tour maintains a homespun, yet remarkably detailed "you were there" tone. He begins by parking beside the assassination site, pointing out where the president's car was forced to slow down to 17 kilometers per hour as it passed the depository, giving Oswald plenty of time to aim and fire.

Jovich peppers the tour with colorful anecdotes, delivering Kennedy's "lines" with a perfect rendition of the president's nasal Boston twang: Jackie and her husband bickering about her sunglasses; Kennedy joking with Texas

Governor John Connally—who was later seriously wounded by the first bullet that struck the president—about who would get more votes in the '64 elections; the elderly priest who waved gleefully as the nation's first Catholic president drove slowly by and then was called to his side less than an hour later to deliver the last rites.

Jovich's tour focuses on the tragic ironies that seemingly conspired that day to bring about Kennedy's death. The bullet-proof power windows in the presidential limousine were rolled down. The Secret Service agent driving the car was elderly, with slower reflexes, and instead of stepping on the gas after the first bullet struck, he slowed the car down while Oswald fired off the bullet that

ultimately killed the president.

"That first bullet would not have killed him," Jovich says. "He would have been back at work in three to five weeks. But nothing could have saved him after the second bullet."

Jovich tells how the agents let their guard down as the motorcade emerged from the "canyon of office buildings" lining Main Street and continued into the open space of Dealey Plaza, where Oswald waited.

"They were convinced that if anyone were to harm the president, it would occur in the canyon," Jovich says.

Moreover, Jovich continues, in flagrant violation of agency norms, half the Secret Service men assigned to Kennedy spent the night before the assassination

at a Dallas bar, carousing and enjoying free drinks until 4 a.m.

Jovich drives slowly along the motorcade's route from Love Field, painting a picture of 200,000 Americans cheering by the side of the road. As he reaches Dealey Plaza, his voice tightens, and bang! He slows down the car as the first bullet hits, and bang! He speeds up as another hits, and suddenly you are there, hurtling down the highway at 145 kph on the way to Parkland Hospital. Kennedy mortally wounded in the back seat, and your adrenaline is pumping as Jovich's narrative reaches fever pitch.

It's history as theater.

After a quick stop outside Parkland Hospital—"tourists keep showing up to visit the trauma unit where Kennedy lay, but it's not there any more"—the tour continues, tracing Oswald's escape route, his murder of Officer J.D. Tippit and his desperate flight to the Texas Theater, where he was ultimately apprehended.

The tour ends where it began, near the Kennedy Memorial outside the Sixth Floor Museum, in sight of the assassination point itself.

In true dramatic style, Jovich keeps the best for last. Does he believe Oswald acted alone, or was there a conspiracy to murder the 35th president of the United States? Jovich smiles at the inevitable question.

"For 19 or 20 years, I believed Kennedy was caught in a crossfire, that there was a conspiracy," he begins. "I no longer believe that. If you really study this assassination, all the evidence still points to just one man. I'm convinced that if Jack Ruby had not gone for his gun, and if Oswald had had his day in court, we wouldn't have all these conspiracy theories floating around."

"Since Kennedy's death, this country has gone downhill. But the absolute truth of the matter is that it all comes down to one man—Lee Harvey Oswald."

But as you leave Jovich's minivan, still tingling from the 90-minute trip back in time, the doubts linger. You're really not sure.

'Red Rock'—a gold mine

GRAPEVINE

GREER FAY CASHMAN

CONCILIATION between Israel and Jordan will eventually result in economic benefits for both countries, but in the interim the individual whose income is most affected by the new status quo is singer Arik Lavi.

His recording of *Hazela Ha'adom* ("The Red Rock") is being played over and over again by local radio stations. The song about the lure of Petra was banned in the 1950s by then prime minister David Ben-Gurion to discourage Israelis from sneaking across the border to make the dangerous journey. Now, it may well become the top of the pops, and Lavi is raking in the royalties.

SO NEAR and yet so far. Eilat Mayor Gabi Kadosh, who attended Monday's inauguration of the Arava border crossing between Israel and Jordan, still cannot visit Akaba, because he is an Israeli national.

His wife, Chantal, who holds both Swiss and Israeli citizenship, created a furor in February when she entered Akaba on her foreign passport in the guise of secretary to the Belgian consul to Switzerland. She revealed her true identity when she delivered a letter of invitation from her husband to then mayor of Akaba Ibrahim Abul-Izz.

Kadosh himself, who as a member of Prime Minister Rabin's entourage to Washington, personally invited King Hussein and Queen Noor to vacation in Eilat, on Monday extended the invitation to include all senior Jordanian officials witnessing the border-crossing ceremony.

RABIN'S BUREAU chief, Eitan Haber, who for the past month has been supervising Israel's side of the pomp and ceremony for events involving public meetings between Rabin and King Hussein, has earned himself the sobriquet "the producer."

Haber learned in the middle of the night of Jordan's agreement to the first such meeting in the 20 years in which the king and the prime minister have known each other. Frustrated by his inability to share with anyone in his household the jubilation of what was still classified information, Haber ransacked his refrigerator, devoured nearly everything he could find, then went for a walk outside.

THE KNESSET this week lost its most eligible bachelor when Likud MK David Meza, 38, placed a ring on the finger of Beit She'an municipal spokeswoman Haya Hirsch, 23, at a glittering ceremony at the Dan Accadia Hotel. The couple, who met earlier this year, announced their engagement after a whirlwind courtship.

The marriage service was performed by Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau, who has been quite busy this year facilitating unions on the celebrity circuit.

WHAT'S IN a name? If it happens to be the Sonol Petroleum Company, the first syllable is taken from Sonneborn, the surname of an old German-Jewish Orthodox family whose various branches are today primarily in Israel and the US.

Some 160 Sonneborns, aged one to 84, will next Wednesday and Thursday congregate at Kibbutz Ramat Rahel for a family reunion. The opening dinner will be attended by Teddy and Tamar Kollek, who, though unrelated to the family, have historic ties. In 1947-48, Teddy Kollek worked with American oil tycoon Rudolf Sonneborn, whom Ben-Gurion approached in 1945 to set up a clandestine "Materials for Palestine" enterprise (later called the Sonneborn Institute) to supply arms and funds to the Jews of Palestine in preparation for the War of Independence.

Various Sonneborns, through their executive status on the board of the Sonneborn Associates Petroleum Corporation, New York, have served on Sonol's board of directors.

Participants in next week's gathering of the clan will receive a 60-page volume of reminiscences by some of the more senior family members, many of whom came here in the 1930s via Youth Aliya.

COMPETING BURGER companies are offering incentives to boost sales. Elisheva Hart, a regular client for Burger Ranch's Jerusalem delivery service, was surprised to discover that the pencil case, ruler, eraser and pencil sharpener which she received as a free gift with her kosher burger were Christian missionary tools, each bearing the slogan "Smile. Jesus loves you."

Company representatives said the items, which the importer supplied by mistake, have been recalled; future gifts will not contain religious messages.

ADDRESSING THE Israel Bonds special Campaign Leadership Task Force, Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert confided that his secretary had asked him why he was always so busy running around to talk to organizations such as Bonds, UIA and Keren Hayesod. To tell the truth, said Olmert, "the speeches are not so important, but I do like to hear the introductions. It's rare in Israel's political life to hear good things about yourself."

In a more serious vein, Olmert elaborated on how Jerusalem will soon surface as "the most important and most sensitive part of the entire peace process."

WOMEN IN Black, meeting informally last Friday at the offices of The Jerusalem Link, debated whether they should change their name in the light of new political realities. Mayada Abassi, chairperson of the General Union of Palestinian Women, urged them to retain the name by which they had come to international attention. Jaffa-born Abassi, whose family fled Israel in 1948, had met several of the Women in Black as well as other Israeli peace activists abroad. An advocate for dialogue, she confessed she never dreamed she would meet them in Jerusalem. One of 43 women sitting at the Palestine National Council, Abassi told her Israeli sisters: "We are condemned to live together. We have recognized each other. We have to build something together."



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The Israel Government is planning to introduce a new Health Law, with special provisions for people over 60. Maccabi Health Care Fund has decided not to wait for the new law to come into effect - and to offer membership to golden-agers NOW.

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